



Build Change Indonesia Celebrate Women in Construction!



Special issue for International Women's Day: 8th March 2013

To celebrate International Women's Day, Build Change Indonesia is focusing on Women in Construction, to highlight the vital role women play in the construction industry. While we do not ignore the role of men, who have contributed significantly to the development of Indonesia's economy, we merely acknowledge and celebrate the role of women, whose contribution has remained largely unrecognised. We at Build Change seek to support and raise awareness of the opportunities available for women in the construction industry, in the promotion of a more diversified gender workforce.



Women represent only 2% of Indonesia's construction sector. Build Change seeks to support women further in the promotion of a more diversified gender workforce.



In most countries, the building industry has been largely male-dominated, and women have encountered difficulty gaining equal access to both training and employment opportunities. At Build Change we seek to overcome these barriers through:

- * Promoting the participation of women across all elements of our programmes.
- * Offering earthquake resistant design and construction (ERDC) training to vocational schools in Indonesia, encouraging girls to fully participate in our training programme.
- * Building women's confidence in construction by providing them with new practical skills, knowledge and experience, enabling them to access the same employment opportunities as their male counterparts.
- * We also consider the added vulnerability of women post disaster, working to address their difficulties in our housing reconstruction and better building materials projects.

Build Change Indonesia Office locations:
Jl. Beringin IVB No. 4, Lolong Belanti, Padang.
Pasirluyu Barat No. 40, Bandung.

Build Earthquake Resistant Houses
Change Construction Practice Permanently





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Build Change Indonesia

Promotion of Women in our Programs



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Women are more adversely affected by disasters, particularly from earthquakes, than men.

In our homeowner-driven reconstruction program, we take into account the effects of disasters on women and their added vulnerability, as often they face additional challenges in rebuilding their homes. We target our technical assistance programmes to address their needs, enabling women to lead and manage the reconstruction efforts of their own home to a level that meets earthquake resistant standards and improves their resilience in the face of future shocks.



Women's livelihoods are more vulnerable to disasters.

Our Better Building Materials project in the Pariaman region works to improve livelihood resilience through co-operative development and access to microfinance. This will enable faster livelihood recovery and resilience for women and their household following future earthquakes and disasters.



Women encounter more cultural and social constraints than men when entering a career in construction.

- ◆ 33% of vocational students are female, yet the construction workforce represents only 2%, therefore work still needs to be done to encourage girls to remain in this sector.
- ◆ We are pleased to announce that following Build Change ERDC vocational training, more girls have taken up construction majors as part of their education programme.



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Build Change Indonesia Promotion of Women in Construction



Below are examples of women at Build Change who are leading successful careers in the construction industry:

Elizabeth Hausler Strand: Build Change CEO and Founder

Build Change was founded by Dr. Elizabeth Hausler Strand. Driven by the unnecessary, avoidable loss of life due to building collapses from earthquakes, Elizabeth set up Build Change, a non-profit social enterprise focused on improving access to earthquake resistant housing, especially for vulnerable families. Her unwavering determination to train others to build earthquake resistant houses, has resulted in 80,000 people living in safer homes across Indonesia, Haiti and China.



"Girls can do anything boys can do!"

Elizabeth has an M.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of California and an M.S. in environmental science from the University of Colorado. She is dedicated to encouraging more girls to enter careers in the construction industry, firmly believing that girls can do anything boys can do!

Tati Deswita: Senior Technical Supervisor Build Change Indonesia

Tati studied civil engineering at Andalas University, Padang. Following her graduation, she was motivated to help people with disaster recovery, and began her career in the NGO sector. Tati has gained a great deal of engineering experience at Build Change and from previous jobs at UN Habitat, ACTED, CRS, IBU Foundation and Caritas, in areas of emergency response and post-disaster housing reconstruction. She thoroughly enjoys the work she does, remaining strongly committed to helping people mitigate and recover from disasters.



Ulfiana: Program Officer Build Change Indonesia

Ulfiana studied civil engineering at Universitas Padang, finding the subject extremely interesting. In 2008 she joined Build Change as a junior construction apprentice gaining great experience working on our homeowner technical assistance program in Agam, West Sumatra. In 2009 she was promoted to program assistant and in 2010 to program officer, where she now supports numerous aspects of the Build Change program, including information monitoring and reporting, ensuring our projects are implemented in the best possible way. Ulfiana loves working for Build Change as everyday she can help mitigate the threat from earthquakes and help save lives.



For more information about Build Change programmes and to hear more from Tati about her experience working in the construction sector, tune into First Response Radio (Heartline Radio 100.6 FM) at

14:00 on Thursday 7th March.



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