



INDONESIA

Men's Engagement in UNFPA Indonesia Programming

Strengthening understanding, capacity and policy to transform
inequitable and unhealthy gender attitudes and norms



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UNFPA has been unequivocal in its commitment to addressing gender inequality in its development and humanitarian work. Over time, UNFPA's global, regional and country teams have agreed on the need to involve men and boys in every aspect of the organization's work. Working with men is vital for ensuring Gender Transformative Programming (GTP) across all programme areas. This approach means challenges and structures that reinforce men's advantages can be examined and addressed, and those that support gender equality can be strengthened.

Throughout its Eighth Country Programme (2011-2015) UNFPA Indonesia has built a substantial record of activities and partnerships to ensure that men and boys are systematically taken into account and involved in its programmes on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender equality. This booklet outlines the key achievements and processes in this effort, and identifies key lessons and ways forward for UNFPA Indonesia's work to engage with men.

WHAT IS GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMMING?

In an effort to address pervasive gender stereotypes, promote shared power, control of resources and decision-making, and support women's empowerment, UNFPA Indonesia aims to implement programmes that have a transformative impact on gender roles. Gender Transformative Programming (GTP) addresses institutional, social and cultural dynamics that influence the behaviours and vulnerabilities of women and men in Indonesian society. A critical part of this approach is engaging men and boys as *partners and agents of change in support of gender equality* and addressing negative forms of masculinities that promote violence and conflict.

The problem with gender norms

Rigid norms about gender roles and identity can harm men, women and children. In situations where norms about masculinity are prevalent, men access fewer sexual and reproductive health services such as HIV prevention, treatment and support initiatives. They also do not support their partners to access vital services such as family planning and antenatal care. In some cases, men do not confront violence against women and children.

Instead, pervasive gender norms often result in men taking part in a variety of high-risk, negative and violent practices.ⁱ These behaviours can have negative consequences including:

- Increasing the vulnerability of both men and women to HIV infection, and other diseases and health problems;ⁱⁱ
- Exposing women, children and other people to violence;
- Creating a barrier to women accessing sexual and reproductive health services, as well as criminal justice and related services in cases of violence against women; and
- Damaging relationships between men and women, between parents and their children.

Indonesia's gender and development goals

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago, made up of more than 17,000 islands. It is also the world's fourth most populous nation, and most populous Muslim-majority country, with 86% of the population identifying as Muslim. It is a secular republic, with an elected parliament and a president.

Indonesia is on track to achieve some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. According to UNDP's MDG report, Indonesia has shown improvement in narrowing the gender gap in some key areas, such as reducing gender disparity in education and literacy, increasing the participation of women in the political and legislative sectors, and developing the necessary legislation for gender mainstreaming.

But certain development challenges remain, and are marked by gender disparities. Challenges persist in levels of maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, stunting and wasting, economic opportunities, and access to legal justice. The situation for Indonesian women varies across regions and ethnic groups. Stereotypes about the roles and status of men and women in Indonesia prevail, and significantly limit Indonesian women in reaching their full potential.

Violence against women is relatively common, but as domestic violence is considered a private matter, incidents are rarely reported. Moreover, many Indonesian women and girls, especially those from poor and marginalized communities, struggle to achieve adequate reproductive health. Family planning is almost entirely the burden of women. Data from the 2007 IDHS shows that only 1.3% of all adult Indonesian men use condoms and less than 0.3% of Indonesian men have had a vasectomy. This very low level of men's participation in family planning contributes to major ongoing development challenges related to population health, economic growth and gender equality.

Although discriminatory laws still exist, women are guaranteed equality under the Indonesian Constitution of 1945, which stipulates that all citizens are equal before the law and the Government. Additionally, an amendment to the Constitution, issued in 2000, includes the right to freedom from discrimination. Indonesia has also signed major international gender equality agreements, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was ratified in 1984. However, there is still a gap between written policies and their actual implementation.



The new approach: Gender Transformative Programming

During the past 20 years, there has been growing momentum and action for engaging men and boys in the promotion of gender equality.ⁱⁱⁱ Several global agreements have recognized the importance of male participation in gender equality. The 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) stated that productive and reproductive life requires a full partnership between men and women. More recently, the 45th session of the Commission on Population and Development on Adolescents and Youth (April 2012) passed a resolution calling upon governments 'to take measures to encourage boys and young men to take part fully in all actions toward gender equality'.

In Indonesia, efforts have been made by the Government to engage men and boys in advancing gender equality and women's rights. For example, in the late 1990s, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment (MOWE) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) introduced the 'Suami SIAGA' (Alert Husband) program that promotes husbands' involvement in pregnancy and preparation for delivery. Similarly, since early 2000 the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) has identified engaging men as a key strategy to promote family planning through the promotion of condom use and vasectomy.



Civil society groups have also been active in promoting engagement of men and boys in reproductive health and in addressing gender based violence. In addition to this substantial progress, there are other areas of development in which Indonesia can continue to promote gender equality and protect women's rights through the engagement of men and boys.

UNFPA Indonesia has built a substantial legacy of activities and partnerships to ensure that men and boys are systematically taken into account in its programmes. In particular, UNFPA Indonesia's work has established and supported platforms to strengthen and coordinate work to transform harmful behavioural attitudes and practices associated with some types of masculinity, including those relating to:

- Gender Based Violence (GBV);
- HIV/AIDS;
- The role of men in family planning;
- Strengthening men's roles in maternal health; and
- Working with religious leaders to promote responsible parenting and family welfare.

Activities and Achievements

Evidence demonstrates that gender transformative approaches, which attempt to change the underlying gender norms and values that lead to discriminatory behaviours, have a significant impact on addressing gender inequality and UNFPA priority programming areas. Getting to the foundation of why men and women behave the way they do, including traditional roles and responsibilities, provides a better opportunity to address barriers to family planning, maternal health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) needs, and ending Gender Based Violence. Gender relations and power dynamics tend to dictate the direction of these issues, and addressing those aspects of relationships can have a significant impact in responding to systemic problems.

To this end, UNFPA Indonesia has supported the establishment of a variety of measures to strengthen understanding, capacity and policy to transform inequitable and unhealthy attitudes and norms about gender:

1

Contributing data and analysis about men's attitudes and practices

Understanding why men and women behave the way they do in relation to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs and gender practices

Improved understanding about men's attitudes and practices towards contraception, ASRH services and gender relations is essential in Indonesia, partly due to the fact that men are often influential in decisions regarding women's health. To this end, UNFPA in 2014 supported the publication of an analytical report on '*Male Knowledge and Attitudes towards ASRH and Gender Practices*'. UNFPA supported a team of researchers connected with the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) to produce a report based on the 2012 Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS). Through advocacy and technical support, UNFPA was able to expand the focus of the research from male contraception to also focus on men's socioeconomic and demographic characteristics in a range of ASRH-related issues. Accordingly, the completed report will provide empirical data to assist regional, provincial and national governments in their policy-making, programming and decision-making processes with baseline data on men and masculinities that will also be useful for monitoring and evaluating sexual and reproductive programmes.



2

Engaging and motivating religious leaders

Raising the issue of engaging men among Muslim groups and leaders

Religious leaders in Indonesia provide the moral framework for many individuals and families. Accordingly, religious leaders often have knowledge and insight into family lives in their communities that Government bodies and NGOs lack about decision-making within families, communication between husbands and wives, and men's and women's roles in childbearing. Recognising the powerful ways that religious leaders influence community attitudes and behaviour, UNFPA supported BKKBN to develop an advocacy plan and training materials on "Islamic Perspectives on Male Involvement in Family Planning, Maternal Health, Parenting and Prevention of Gender Based Violence". The activities undertaken to produce the strategy and materials included broad consultation between UNFPA, BKKBN and numerous prominent religious groups.



3

Strengthening men's roles in maternal health and family planning

Revitalizing the national family planning programme to address men's roles as partners

BKKBN is the only Indonesian governmental body with a specific sub-directorate focused engaging men in reproductive health. UNFPA assists BKKBN to coordinate and strengthen the participation of men in family planning beyond the narrow area of vasectomy. In addition to ongoing capacity development and technical support, UNFPA is supporting BKKBN to strengthen men's roles in maternal health and family planning through the development of a *'Policy Brief on Male Involvement and Family Planning'* (2014-15).



4

Reducing sexual transmission of HIV by targeting High Risk Masculinities (HRM)

Addressing structures, norms and practices of masculinity, rather than suggesting that men themselves are the problem

In most parts of the world, HIV is primarily transmitted through unprotected sex, and involves men in occupational groups known or suspected to be frequent clients of female sex workers (FSW). This is the case in Indonesia, where men displaying risky behaviours – High Risk Masculinities (HRM)¹ – represent an important 'bridge' between FSW, one of the population sub-groups in which the HIV/AIDS epidemic is currently concentrated, and the general population.



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