

YOUTH BOOKLET

II



*Realizing Young People's Potential in Indonesia :
The Path to a Brighter Future*

Credits

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Foreword by UNFPA Representative in Indonesia



Young people are not only the future of our world, they are also the present. That is why it is so important for us to fulfill the rights of young people like yourselves and help you to fulfill your potential to contribute to a better world.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA engages young people in its work, and advocates for youth engagement in the work of others. Promoting youth leadership and participation is key to UNFPA's work. Our efforts enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, countries and the world. UNFPA also promotes the meaningful participation of young people in international settings where issues relating to them will be discussed.

This publication, entitled "Realizing Young People's Potentials: The Path to a Brighter Future" has been developed for the second time. Its purpose is to share stories of inspiring Indonesian youth leaders and their work as they develop their environment and realize their potential. Their stories aim to show that all young people, wherever they are, can achieve their dreams when provided with opportunity and investment. This publication also illustrates that Indonesia has a great deal to offer in the Post-2015 world.

It is with great appreciation that UNFPA extends its gratitude to all those involved in this report; our Youth Advisory Panel and youth leader contributors who provided expertise in the writing of the report. We also thank our Youth and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health team, our editor, and youth leaders and networks that have given their time to collaborate on and finalize this report.

Let us ensure that young people will always be a partner in developing the future we want.

Jose Ferraris
UNFPA Representative in Indonesia

Introduction on Youth and Sustainable Development Goals

Planet earth is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24. If you are between the ages of 10 and 24, then you are one of 65 million young people in Indonesia, and one of 1.8 billion young people living in the world today. If you have yet to turn 30, then you are in the global majority.

If you are a young person aged 24 today, you would have been 10 years old when the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration, committing to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty, and setting out a series of time-bound targets, with a deadline of 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs encapsulate eight globally agreed goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV&AIDS and communicable diseases, and building a global partnership for development.

The United Nations is in the process of defining a post-2015 development agenda, to renew the MDGs commitment. This agenda will be launched

at a Summit in September 2015, which is the target date for realizing the MDGs. The new agenda is currently being elaborated through informal consultations of the UN General Assembly; there have been numerous inputs to the agenda, notably a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The agenda is intended to be a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace and freedom, with the aim of leaving no one behind.

Young people are better equipped to reach their full potential when they are healthy and well educated, and when they have opportunities to thrive and fulfil their aspirations. The “My World 2015” survey revealed that globally, young people see “a good education,” “better healthcare” and “a better job opportunities” as actions that would make the greatest difference to their lives. Honest and responsive government and protection against crime and violence are similarly important. These responses show a lingering global need to provide the essential conditions and supporting environment for the development and empowerment of young

people. Young people are about to inherit an enormous responsibility for resolving many long-standing complex issues, ranging from poverty to climate change, yet they have mostly been excluded from participating in the decisions that will determine what the future looks like.

Young people in all countries including Indonesia have the potential to be agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Comprising about one-quarter of the world's population and one third of total population in Indonesia, today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, parents, workers, investors, active citizens and innovators. The ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfill their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well being and livelihood of future generations (United Nations Commission on Population and Development, 2012).

UNFPA is working together with a multitude of partners, in particular young people themselves, through five strategic prongs: 1) Enable evidence-based advocacy for comprehensive policy and program development, investment and implementation; 2) Promote comprehensive sexuality education; 3) Build capacity for sexual and reproductive health service delivery (including HIV prevention, treatment and care); 4) Take bold initiatives to reach marginalized and disadvantaged adolescents and youth, especially girls, and 5) Promote youth leadership and participation. With appropriate support to achieve their

potential, they can be an immense source of productivity, innovation and creative dynamism that accelerates development.

This publication, titled "Realizing Young People's Potentials: The Path to a Brighter Future" has been developed to show that young people have already been participating in fundamental development issues, not only in youth wellbeing, but also in broader development priorities. The youth leaders featured in this book have been grouped into three main areas of focus of sustainable development: social equality, economic development and environmental sustainability.

With this publication, let's start thinking of young people not only as a target group of development, but also as potential initiators, partners, participants, decision-makers and leaders. We need to place young people at the center of sustainable development.

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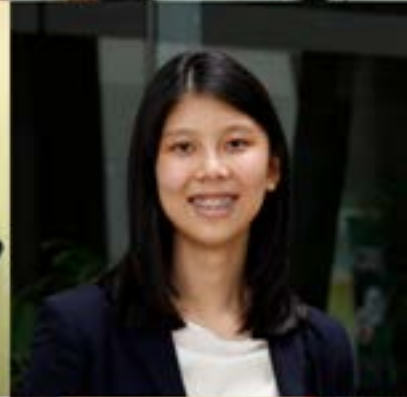
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