

## THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BETTER SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS FOR ALL IN INDONESIA (BERANI) PROGRAM IN FULFILLING CHILDREN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

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### Abstract

*This study aims to analyze the implementation of the Better Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia (BERANI) program as one of the efforts of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as an international organization in dealing with sexual and reproductive health issues in the first phase of the BERANI program in 2018-2023 which continues to the second phase of the program starting in 2024 until 2027 which is still running today. The case study was conducted in the Central Jakarta area because the area is one of the places where the BERANI program is implemented. The research method used is a qualitative approach with data collection through in-depth interviews with related parties, document analysis, and literature studies. The results of the study show that the BERANI program implemented in Central Jakarta is an effort to play the role of UNFPA in addressing sexual and reproductive health issues in children until they continue into old age. The BERANI program is an effort carried out by UNFPA as a form of assistance in handling sexual and reproductive health issues needed by Indonesia, including the Central Jakarta area. Although challenges still exist, the program provides hope for an increase in the fulfillment of children's sexual and reproductive health rights through education.*

**Keywords:** *Role; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Better Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia (BERANI); Sexual and Reproductive Health*

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### A. Introduction

International relations are defined as the study of interactions between sovereign states in the world and the study of *non-state* actors that have an influence on the lives of nations within states (Perwita & Yani, 2006). Actors in international relations include *International Governmental Organizations (IGOs)* such as the *United Nations (UN)* which has six structures, namely the *General Assembly*, the *Security Council*, the *Economic and Social Council*, the *Trusteeship Council*, the *International Court of Justice*, and the *UN Secretariat*. One of the organizations under the *UN General Assembly*, namely *UNFPA* or the *United Nations Population Fund*, is an international organization assigned to Indonesia based on the *1995 Report of the ECOSOC*, number *A/50/3/Rev.1* *UNFPA* is a *non-state* actor and Indonesia is a state actor in international relations that engages in international interaction, where the

pattern of international interaction between the two actors, namely UNFPA and Indonesia, is in the form of cooperation (Margono, 2015).

Currently, cooperation is the dominant pattern of interaction between international actors (Perwita & Yani, 2008). Before the conflict between the Western and Eastern blocs ended, military issues dominated the world. However, after the conflict between the Western and Eastern blocs ended, development and economic issues became more dominant than military issues (Yanuar Ikbar, 2014). The involvement of social phenomena such as ideology, law, socio-culture, and other aspects has made international relations increasingly complex. However, the complexity of issues that are the focus of international relations does not change the understanding that security is an important aspect of life in the world. It is just that the understanding of the concept of security in the contemporary era is different when compared to the understanding of security in the previous era.

In the book *Methodology & Theory of International Relations*, Yanuar Ikbar explains that humans are protected from various threats that cause destruction to their physical well-being or possessions, threats that are capable of damaging their integrity as human beings. According to *the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*, humans are protected from disturbances in their daily lives, such as threats of hunger, health, oppression, and so on, which are included in seven categories of security, namely community, economic, environmental, food, health, personal, and political security, which focus on security in human needs outside of military security (Catia Gregoratti, 2013). The UNDP defines two different aspects, namely the aspect of security from threats that can damage humans physically and psychologically, such as disease (Kusuma, 2022).

According to the definition of *the Commission on Human Security*, efforts are made to provide protection for the core or vital aspects of every human life, characterized by freedom from threats to human rights and interference with the ability to obtain those rights. A core aspect of human life is *security in terms of health*, which is included in the seven categories of human security mentioned by the UNDP. *Health security* refers to freedom from various types of diseases that can interfere with an individual's life and freedom to access health care services around them (Diana iqlima 2019).

One focus of *health security* is *sexual and reproductive health*. Good sexual and reproductive health is characterized by the physical, mental, and social well-being of humans in all matters related to the human reproductive system, where humans have safe sex lives and are able to reproduce (UNFPA, 2022). In order to maintain sexual and reproductive health, individuals need access to accurate information about safe, effective, affordable, and appropriate contraceptive methods, as well as information on how to protect themselves from diseases that can be transmitted through sexually transmitted infections.

Sexual and reproductive health is still not well implemented in Indonesia, as evidenced by the prevalence of sexual crimes such as early marriage and unwanted pregnancies among children, adolescents, and even people with disabilities. This is because education about sexual and reproductive health is still considered taboo. (Khairiyah et al) Indonesian society pays little attention to and is unaware that having clear knowledge about

sexual and reproductive health is a necessity for everyone, including Indonesians who are still in their childhood.

The lack of knowledge about the appropriate way to convey sexual and reproductive health education is one of the factors that trigger a lack of attention to knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, especially if the audience is teenagers or even children. Meanwhile, based on the statement at *the International Conference on Population and Development* (ICPD), the right to obtain education about sexual and reproductive health as well as quality services belongs to everyone.

It is unfortunate that Indonesian children grow up with a lack of knowledge that they should have even before they reach adolescence and begin to experience puberty. A lack of knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and the forms of services available will cause their sexual mindsets and behaviors to be easily influenced and can lead to irresponsible sexual misconduct that can harm anyone (Aini, 2024).

The lack of knowledge and education related to sexual and reproductive health services cannot be completely resolved by the Indonesian government or *the United Nations Population Fund* (UNFPA) as an international organization. If inappropriate delivery methods and unprofessional materials are not addressed immediately, the public will not be able to understand the educational materials provided and will choose to ignore their ignorance about sexual and reproductive health.

UNFPA or *the United Nations Population Fund* is an organization established under the *United Nations General Assembly* in 1969 that works in the field of population control and reproductive health in developing countries. UNFPA's goal is to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young generation is free from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and every woman is treated with dignity and respect (UNFPA). To achieve these goals, UNFPA also provides various educational resources on sexual and reproductive health while supporting access to sexual and reproductive health services.

UNFPA and the Indonesian government are committed to working together in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, *adolescents and youth, gender equality, women's empowerment, and population dynamics*, as outlined in the *Country Programme Document* (CPD) and *Country Programme Action Plan* (CPAP).

*The 1995 Report of the Economic and Social Council* for Indonesia, prepared by *the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services* with number A/50/3/Rev.1 explained that Indonesia needed assistance in the field of sexual and reproductive health, so UNFPA was assigned to Indonesia to address sexual and reproductive health among adolescents and young children, gender equality, women's empowerment, and population dynamics in Indonesia.

In CPAP cycle 9 (2016-2020), there are 4 *Outcomes* with 5 *Outputs* implemented as a result of cooperation, one of which focuses on reproductive and sexual health (UNFPA). This plan was then continued in the 10th cycle of cooperation/CPAP (2021-2025), which has 4 *Outcomes* with 5 *Outputs* as the expected results of the cooperation between UNFPA and

the Indonesian government in the expanded field of sexual and reproductive health (Republic of Indonesia, UNFPA).

One of the access points provided for Indonesia is a program called *Better Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia*, abbreviated as the BERANI program, which ran from 2018 to 2023 in its first phase. The BERANI program was established with the aim of meeting the needs of young people in Indonesia in terms of accessing services and information on sexual and reproductive health, which can be obtained through school and outside of school (UNFPA, 2023). Young people in Indonesia still face difficulties in accessing services and education on sexual and reproductive health.

In implementing the BERANI program, UNFPA requires support from the Indonesian government. It is hoped that the BERANI program can serve as a bridge in achieving the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) in Indonesia. It focuses on fulfilling the sexual and reproductive health rights of children by providing quality educational services for children in Indonesia. In *the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals* or SDGs, the BERANI program aims to fulfill *the goals of Good Health and Well-being*, where the BERANI program helps in achieving a healthy life and improving welfare for all people of all ages, and *the goals of Gender Equality*, where the BERANI program can help in ensuring that women and children can have a good and quality future because they receive education on reproductive and sexual health (*Department of Economic and Social Affairs*).

The basis for education related to reproductive and sexual health received by children and pre-teens in Indonesia is found in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 2009, specifically in Article 72 point d, Article 136 paragraph 1, and Article 137 paragraphs 1 and 2 (Susanti & Lisnawati, 2024). Children in Indonesia should receive knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, along with quality education on sexual and reproductive health services, before they reach puberty. With the implementation of the BERANI program, the need for education on sexual and reproductive health should be met and improved in terms of both the quality of education provided and the number of children receiving education on sexual and reproductive health.

Educational and informational media that are not yet packaged in a way that is easily accessible to children approaching adolescence, the lack of direct training facilities, and the fact that material on sexual and reproductive health is still considered taboo and too sensitive to be given to children, hinder access to the educational services provided by UNFPA through the BERANI program. Reproductive health education programs and services are hampered because education about contraceptives, which is one of the materials used in reproductive and sexual health education, faces opposition from teachers (Bani, 2014).

This study, the BERANI program implemented by UNFPA from the first phase in 2018 to 2023 and continuing into the second phase starting in 2024, is said to be successful. The BERANI program implemented by UNFPA provides support and advocacy in applicable policy documents. Researchers observed how UNFPA fulfilled its contribution to education on fulfilling children's sexual and reproductive health rights through the BERANI program, which was held from 2018 to 2023 in the first phase, continued in the second phase in 2024,

and was supported by the Indonesian government to fulfill the SDGs on health and education, which was then described by researchers in a study entitled "The Role of *the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* through the Implementation of the *Better Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia (BERANI)* Program in Fulfilling Children's Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

## **B. Method**

This study uses a qualitative research method, emphasizing that the research process used is a feasible process so that it does not only focus on the final results obtained by conducting research, which is carried out by exploring and understanding something that is considered by a number of individuals or groups as a social problem occurring around them. Qualitative methods involve collecting and analyzing *non-numeric* data to provide understanding and meaning in research while keeping researchers focused on the research process (Lamont, 2015).

According to John Ward Creswell, qualitative research methods are used by researchers to understand and examine social or human issues in the form of individuals or groups consisting of individuals (John W & Creswell, 2008). Data obtained in qualitative research is collected through data interpreted by researchers through various procedures and questions related to the research, which has flexible and inductive results.

## **C. Findings and Discussion**

### **1. Findings**

#### **The Role of *the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* Through the Implementation of the *Better Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia (Berani)* Program in Fulfilling Children's Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights**

This section will explain the results of the study on "The Role of *the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* through the Implementation of the *Better Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia (BERANI)* in fulfilling children's sexual and reproductive health rights," which contains a discussion of the results of the researcher's study on the role of UNFPA through the implementation of the BERANI program in fulfilling children's sexual and reproductive health rights in Central Jakarta, which also aims to provide a specific description of the role of UNFPA in addressing sexual and reproductive health issues. In analyzing the role of UNFPA through the implementation of the BERANI program in fulfilling children's sexual and reproductive rights, the researcher used the theory proposed by Clive Archer regarding the theory of the role of international organizations, whereby international organizations in this study, namely UNFPA, have the roles of *instrument*, *arena/forum*, and *independent actor* (Ikbar). From this theory, the researcher explained the role of UNFPA as an international organization.

Initially, international relations only examined war and peace, which then expanded to include studies of development, change, and continuity that occur between countries in the context of the global system. This broadening of scope was caused by changes in the nature or political constellation of the present day, which brought about changes in the relationships between elements at the level of international relations. This is evident in the development of current global issues, where problems are no longer limited to *high politics*

but also include *low politics* issues such as social issues, human rights issues, environmental issues, and economic issues (Paul et al, 2014).

In resolving these issues, countries need assistance from various parties, both *state* and *non-state* actors. Therefore, state actors are no longer the main actors because the current policy-making process involves other actors such as international organizations that play the same role as countries and are able to exert a major influence on international relations. If relies solely on state actors, the policy-making process will always be marked by conflict, competition, and compromise between political agendas. International organizations can provide guidance by setting the agenda for meetings and conferences under their auspices (Jackson & Sorensen, 2005).

After the Cold War, countries began to abandon the idea of realism, where a country's *power* is the main force. Currently, countries need institutions that can serve as a 'container' so that countries around the world can cooperate, which of course involves actors other than countries, such as international organizations. According to Le Roy A. Bennet in his book entitled *International Organizations: Principles and Issues*, international organizations aim to uphold regulations derived from international legal sources such as international agreements, international customs, and products of international organizations themselves, such as charters and constitutions of organizations like the UN Charter, so that they can run orderly, achieve common goals, and become a forum for relations between countries so that the national interests of each country in the context of international relations can be guaranteed (Perwita & Yani).

In institutional liberalism theory, according to Robert Keohane, cumulative progress, where long-term cooperation is carried out in mutually beneficial interests, is caused by modernization, which can expand the scope of cooperation and its needs. The basis for the need for sexual and reproductive health education that must be received by children and continue until they reach adolescence in Indonesia is stated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 2009 in Article 72 point d, Article 136 paragraph 1, and Article 137 paragraphs 1 and 2. Article 72 states that everyone has the right to obtain accurate and reliable information, education, and counseling on reproductive health. Article 136 paragraph 1 states that efforts to maintain adolescent health must be aimed at preparing them to become healthy and productive adults, both socially and economically. And Article 137 paragraphs 1 and 2 state that the government is obliged to ensure that adolescents can obtain education, information, and services regarding adolescent health so that they can live healthy and responsible lives, and this must be implemented in accordance with moral and religious considerations and based on the provisions of laws and regulations (Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 2009 concerning Health).

This is in line with *the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*, which is one of the international organizations in the world under the auspices of the UN *General Assembly* that deals with population and sexual and reproductive health issues. In line with institutional liberalism theory, Indonesia is a member of UNFPA, which addresses sexual and reproductive health issues, so the Indonesian government needs the assistance of UNFPA as an international organization working in this field. In this study, UNFPA acts as an

international organization that assists the Indonesian government in addressing sexual and reproductive health issues through a program developed by the United Nations Population Fund ( ) specifically for Indonesia, namely *Better Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia* (BERANI).

Every international organization is formed and established with the aim of performing roles and functions in accordance with the objectives of the international organization's establishment. According to Clive Archer, the role of international organizations is as a forum for member countries to work together to prevent conflicts arising between members. a place for member countries to negotiate so that they can produce mutually beneficial decisions. International organizations can also act as independent institutions in carrying out activities organized by the international organization itself, such as social and humanitarian activities, assistance related to environmental preservation, and other activities that can be organized by international organizations in accordance with the needs of member countries.

This is in line with UNFPA's BERANI program, which is only available in Indonesia. The BERANI program is a collaboration between the Indonesian government and UNFPA, assisted by the Canadian government, in addressing the challenges of providing sexual and reproductive health services so that they are evenly distributed. providing guaranteed family planning programs based on rights, helping to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and meeting the needs of young people, including children, in relation to services and information on sexual and reproductive health.

UNFPA's role in addressing sexual and reproductive health challenges was then analyzed using the role theory proposed by Clive Archer, namely as *a tool/instrument* whereby UNFPA, as an international organization, is used by Indonesia as a member state to achieve its goals of improving the health quality of children, adolescents, and mothers based on foreign policy in achieving the *goals* set out in the SDGs. as *an arena/forum* where UNFPA becomes a meeting place for member countries, including Indonesia, to discuss and debate issues such as sexual and reproductive health, and as *an independent actor* where UNFPA can make its own decisions without being influenced by actors outside the organization.

### **The Role of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as a Tool/Instrument**

The existence of international organizations is proof that humans need cooperation in dealing with issues that arise, where assistance is needed in order for cooperation to take place. Currently, the role of international organizations in international relations has gained recognition because they have succeeded in providing assistance in the form of solving problems faced by a country, one of whose roles is to be an instrument whereby international organizations help their member countries to achieve certain goals. According to the theory put forward by Clive Archer in his book entitled *International Organizations* regarding international organizations, one of the roles of an international organization is to be a tool or *instrument* used by its member countries to channel foreign policy, coordinate international assistance, and implement the global agenda on a shared *platform* (Archer, 2003). In channeling foreign policy, member countries can use international organizations

to channel aid in the form of official programs or projects while promoting national norms or interests in international forums. In coordinating international aid, member countries can use international organizations to collect and distribute aid funds from donors and use them to develop programs at the global and national levels. In implementing the global agenda on a joint platform, member countries can use international organizations to contribute to multilateral commitments such as the SDGs.

UNFPA is one of the international organizations used as a tool or *instrument* by its member countries to implement agendas related to population and sexual and reproductive health. There are goals that are expected to be achieved through the use of UNFPA in assisting its member countries, such as the achievement of *the Sustainable Development Goals* or SDGs on *Good Health and Well-being* and *Gender Equality*. In order to achieve these goals, UNFPA acts as *a tool/instrument* in providing programs or projects such as the BERANI program. As *a tool/instrument*, UNFPA as an international organization is used by Indonesia as a member country with the aim of addressing issues related to sexual and reproductive health while also serving as *a tool/instrument* for government policy and diplomacy, where UNFPA is important in the process of achieving the Indonesian government's long-term goals.

*The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* is one of the important partners for the Indonesian government in addressing sexual and reproductive health issues. As an intergovernmental international organization, UNFPA aims to address sexual and reproductive health issues. One of the efforts made to achieve this goal is by providing access to education on sexual and reproductive health while supporting access to sexual and reproductive health services for all ages in Indonesia, including children, which is expected to continue into adulthood. The BERANI program is an official program provided by UNFPA in collaboration with the Indonesian government and the Canadian government as a donor (Widihastuti). In providing access to sexual and reproductive health education and information services for children and young people, the BERANI program supports a sexual and reproductive health service model that is managed to provide accurate information and services that are convenient for use by the younger generation.

Based on Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 2009 concerning health, Article 72 point d, Article 136 paragraph 1, Article 137 paragraphs 1 and 2, and the ICPD statement that the right to obtain education about sexual and reproductive health and quality services belongs to everyone and is necessary for the achievement of the *Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs* in Indonesia on the targets of *Good Health and Well-being* and *Gender Equality*, the BERANI program is the right official program/project to achieve the goal of ensuring a healthy life and improving the welfare of all people of all ages and helping to ensure that people of all ages, including girls and boys, have a good future and receive appropriate and quality education on sexual and reproductive health. As *a tool/instrument* in Indonesia through the BERANI program, UNFPA is able to support existing policies in Indonesia and, through the BERANI program, UNFPA assists Indonesia in achieving health development goals, including sexual and reproductive health, in line with the needs of the Indonesian state.

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia is the basis for all legislation that guarantees everyone the right to a prosperous life, both physically and mentally, as well as good health. Law No. 36 of 2009 on Health emphasizes that everyone has the right to obtain information, education, and counseling services regarding accurate and reliable reproductive health. Therefore, reproductive health education in schools takes the form of a teaching and learning process based on a curriculum covering the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social aspects of sexual and reproductive health, including social relationships, personal boundaries, consent, norms, values, culture, gender, healthy life skills education, healthy behavior, and access to health support and services. It does not only discuss reproduction from a health perspective, such as sexual and reproductive risks and diseases. (Ministry of Education and Culture, Directorate of Primary Schools) The BERANI program implemented in Indonesia is able to strengthen the policy basis for sexual and reproductive health education services for children by strengthening sexual and reproductive health education for children and adolescents, strengthening sexual and reproductive health services so that they can be used as a link between children and quality sexual and reproductive health services, where UNFPA collaborates with the Indonesian government, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BKKBN, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Primary Education, the Ministry of Child Protection, and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and national commissions such as the National Commission on Violence Against Women and Bappenas.

As an instrument, UNFPA acts as an international organization in aligning its actions with policies applicable in Indonesia. Through the BERANI program, UNFPA is used by the Indonesian government to the maximum extent possible so that issues in fulfilling children's sexual and reproductive health rights can be addressed. One of the areas where the BERANI program is implemented is Jakarta. The human resources center there is quite capable of receiving education on sexual and reproductive health. Even so, there are still human resource skills that are not as strong as those of friends or colleagues who are considered ready to receive education on sexual and reproductive health.

### **The Role of the United Nations Population Fund/UNFPA as an Arena/Forum**

One of the roles of international organizations is to serve as a forum formed when member countries have similar problems and then make agreements that are agreed upon by member countries with the aim of achieving and guaranteeing the interests of member countries in the context of international relations (Bennet, 1997). International organizations act as actors that assist countries as a means for their member countries to discuss issues faced by member countries together in a *forum*. In other words, international organizations become a meeting place for member countries of an international organization to talk and discuss the problems they face in their countries.

In this arena or *forum*, member states are allowed to gather and engage in discussions, debates, cooperation, and exchanges of views, which can then be used by member states as an opportunity to improve their perspectives and proposals in a public *forum*. This cannot be achieved through bilateral diplomacy alone and must be done through a *forum* created

by an international organization. International organizations such as the United Nations also provide *forums* for member countries to gather and raise issues or problems common to their respective countries, and the UN will provide assistance through the UN Secretariat in accordance with the issues raised. One of the *forums* provided by the UN is *the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)*.

*The International Conference on Population and Development* or ICPD is one of the conferences held under the auspices of the UN and organized by the *Population Division Secretariat* of the UN Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, now better known as *the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Department of Economic and Social Affairs* and UNFPA on September 13, 1994, in Cairo, Egypt. Previously, population issues tended to be understood only in terms of population growth and birth control, but the ICPD brought about a global paradigm shift on population and development issues that also focused on human rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health, placing human rights at the core of sustainable development. The ICPD then set standards for development in society and guided national policies and programs in the implementation of the *Programme of Action* by the government, in collaboration with civil parliaments, the United Nations Development Programme ( ), including women's and youth-led organizations, the private sector, community groups, and individuals (UNFPA, 2025).

*The Programme of Action* or PoA ICPD 1994 is a document resulting from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, which was agreed upon by representatives from 179 UN member states. It was previously agreed to be a global action plan for 20 years from 1994 to 2014, but was later extended because it was still relevant to the circumstances in subsequent years. The PoA serves as a guideline used by UN agencies working in the field of population and sexual and reproductive health, namely UNFPA as the main implementer of *the ICPD Programme of Action* at the global and national levels, as well as a guideline for its member countries.

The PoA has 16 main chapters, namely *Interrelationship Between Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development*, which emphasizes that population policies must be in line with economic development and environmental sustainability; *Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women*, which emphasizes gender equality and women's empowerment as key requirements for development; *The Family, its Roles, Rights, Composition and Structure*, which emphasizes recognition of the rights and roles of the family, while protecting individual rights; *Population Growth and Structure*, which emphasizes the management of population growth dynamics in accordance with the context of each country; *Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health*, which emphasizes the guarantee of reproductive health services for all without discrimination; *Health, Morbidity and Mortality*, which emphasizes a focus on reducing maternal and child mortality and preventing infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS), *Population Distribution, Urbanization and Internal Migration*, which emphasizes the management of migration, urbanization, and balanced population distribution, and *International Migration*, which emphasizes cooperation between countries in regulating international migration. These chapters were created with the main objectives of guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health rights for all people, including access to

sexual and reproductive health services, reducing maternal and child mortality rates, meeting the family planning needs of every couple/individual who has the right to determine the number, spacing, and timing of their children, empowering women and gender equality, paying special attention to young people, and focusing on linking all implementation programs with population and sustainable development (United Nations, 1996).

With the ICPD *Programme of Action*, UN member states and UNFPA member states gathered at the ICPD and had to make the PoA a guideline, including Indonesia, which is also a member state, which had to gather and use the PoA. *The Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1995*, specifically on page 125 regarding *the Commission on Population and Development*, highlights the position and views of Indonesia, which at that time was represented by the late Nugroho Wisnumurti, who emphasized that the Commission on Population and Development, formerly known as *the Population Commission*, needed to be strengthened in terms of its mandate and operational framework, and that the needed to be reviewed in order to be strengthened so that the UNFPA can be more effective in monitoring population and development issues. In the same source, in the section on *resource mobilization and resource requirements*, an *in-depth* study of the case of Indonesia conducted in August 1997 discusses the need for assistance provided to Indonesia in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and development, specifically in paragraphs 36 and 37, where at that time the government received external assistance (United Nations, 1996).

The existence of the ICPD and PoA, as well as the discussion on assistance for Indonesia, is evidence that UNFPA, as a UN agency, is actively involved in providing a *forum* for its member countries, including Indonesia. In its role as a forum, UNFPA, as an international organization, assists Indonesia, which needs assistance in addressing sexual and reproductive health issues, so that Indonesia has the opportunity to convey its needs for assistance through the ICPD, where the assistance is accommodated by the UN Secretariat, which includes UNFPA as *the leading sector* in the field of sexual and reproductive health. The assistance is then transferred to *the UN General Assembly*, which has a UN plan, namely the SDGs, in accordance with applicable values and norms. The UN then receives requests for assistance from Indonesia, after which the UN mandates UNFPA to provide assistance in the field of sexual and reproductive health in accordance with the assistance requested by Indonesia and in accordance with applicable norms. The performance of UNFPA and its units assigned to Indonesia as a whole will be bound by *the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP)* that is valid for a five-year cycle and will work in accordance with the mandate set out in the CPAP, which is constantly updated and agreed upon by UNFPA and the Indonesian government, as well as evaluated and then replanned together with the government to continue in subsequent cycles.

Thus, the performance of UNFPA with the Indonesian government is data-driven, where everything is planned together on an equal footing. The Indonesian government can submit criticism or even express disagreement with certain programs, negotiate, exchange ideas, and listen to each other between UNFPA and the Indonesian government. Within the

larger scope where UNFPA has many units, these units continue to work together with the government. UNFPA's role in assisting the Indonesian government occurs in five-year cycles, with 2025 being the last year of the 10th cycle. In 2026, a new cycle will begin, and the BERANI program is one of the programs included in the five-year cycle planning.

Central Jakarta is one of the areas where the BERANI program is being implemented in the five-year cycle and will be implemented again in Central Jakarta in the next five-year cycle as long as the BERANI program is still being implemented in Indonesia. According to Jakarta Special Capital Region Governor Regulation Number 51 of 2024 concerning the Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Development Goals of the Jakarta Special Capital Region Province, it is stated that in order to elaborate on regional policies and strategies in accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals/*Sustainable Development Goals* of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta as the implementation of Presidential Regulation No. 111 of 2022 concerning the Implementation of the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, it is necessary to formulate a Regional Action Plan for *Sustainable Development Goals*. In Chapter III, specifically in Article 5 concerning Monitoring and Evaluation, there is a statement that the Provincial Government of DKI Jakarta shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RAD TPB/SDGs. One of the targets adopted in the RAD TPB/SDGs in point 5.6 is to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed upon in accordance with *the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform*, as well as the review documents from these conferences (Governor of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta, 2024). The statement in this official document is proof that Central Jakarta is one of the regions in Indonesia that has adopted the SDGs and ICPD as guidelines for addressing sexual and reproductive health issues. Based on the ICPD statement that the right to education on sexual and reproductive health and quality services belongs to everyone and is necessary for the achievement of the *Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs* in Indonesia in the areas of *Good Health and Well-being* and *Gender Equality*, the Central Jakarta region also supports the achievement of the SDGs and uses the results of the ICPD as a guideline.

In the implementation of the BERANI program in Indonesia, including in Central Jakarta, the Canadian government, through ICPD, is the sole contributor of funds used to run the BERANI program. The Canadian government is willing to be a donor and an active donor country that supports ICPD, which emphasizes sexual and reproductive health as a basic human right as well as the SDGs on *Good Health and Well-being* and *Gender Equality*. By providing financial support to the BERANI program, the Canadian government also ensures that these targets can be achieved in Indonesia. The Canadian government also sees the potential of children and adolescents as an investment in creating a healthy and productive society in the future, with the BERANI program also targeting children and adolescents. Currently, the funds from the Canadian government have been secured. Although financial contributions from the Canadian government are still being received to support the implementation of the BERANI program, UNFPA continues to ensure that all ministries at the national level, national institutions, including non-governmental

organizations, and regional institutions maintain mechanisms to ensure that the work can continue even after the BERANI program has been completed and financial contributions have ceased.

All services, knowledge, and skills acquired during the implementation of the BERANI program will remain with the national and regional governments. This is to ensure that the skills acquired are retained and can continue to be used. Therefore, the training initiatives provided by UNFPA will not be in the form of ongoing training. However, UNFPA will create a system whereby the training conducted will be adopted into an *online* training platform that can be accessed on *the websites* of ministries or partners, which it is hoped will be accessible to all levels of society in Indonesia. This means that in the future, even if there is no funding from active donors, the program materials that have been adopted will continue to be accessible even after the BERANI program has been completed and ended.

### ***The Role of the United Nations Population Fund/UNFPA as an Independent Actor***

International organizations such as UNFPA also have a role as independent actors, whereby an international organization is able to make its own decisions without any influence from powers or coercive forces outside the organization. In other words, an international organization is able to act without any influence from forces outside the organization, whereby an international organization is able to influence its member countries. Through the BERANI program implemented in Indonesia, UNFPA as an international organization has an influence on policy-making in Indonesia, determining the design of modules, standards, and even methods of sexual and reproductive health education, while still basing its work on the results of the ICPD, even though issues related to sexual and reproductive health are sensitive in Indonesia. Nevertheless, UNFPA continues to fulfill its contribution by working with the Indonesian government to ensure a healthy life and improve the welfare of all people of all ages and to help ensure that people of all ages, including girls and boys, have a good future and receive appropriate and quality education on sexual and reproductive health.

To achieve these goals, the BERANI program also contributes to the formulation of policies that support the implementation of existing programs and objectives. Without these policies, it would be difficult to provide services, education, and regulate many other matters that affect the sustainability of the BERANI program. Therefore, UNFPA, through the BERANI program, works with the government to ensure that supportive policies are issued and needed or used by colleagues working in the health sector, midwives, teachers, and instructors at Islamic boarding schools so that they can work with the support of the legal framework and more specific regulations that they need.

The BERANI program contributes to policy-making and advocacy, consisting of 21 policies, strategies, and roadmaps that have been developed to improve sexual and reproductive health (.). These include Law No. 4 of 2019 on Midwifery, Law No. 12 of 2022 on Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law), BKKBN Head Regulation No. 9 of 2019 on Fulfilling the Needs of Contraceptive Devices and Medicines for Couples of Childbearing

Age in Family Planning Services, The Indonesian Government's commitment to FP2030, the National Strategy for the Prevention of Child Marriage, the Memorandum of Understanding (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology) for the Program to Increase Teacher Capacity in Reproductive Health Education, the National Guidelines for the Management of Reproductive Health Education Programs in Junior High Schools, Guidelines for Reproductive Health Education Outside of School and Reproductive Health Services through Youth Health Posts, Guidelines for the Health Sector's Response to KBG for Hospitals and Primary Health Services, Algorithm for Health Sector Service Management for Victims of Sexual Violence, South Sulawesi Governor Regulation No. 31 of 2021 concerning Regional Strategies for the Prevention of Child Marriage (STRADA PPA), Bone Regency Regulation on the Prevention of Child Marriage, Bone Regency Regional Strategy on the Prevention of Child Marriage, North Luwu Regency Regulation on the Prevention of Child Marriage, Tanjung Village Regulation on the Elimination of Child Marriage, Tanige Village Regulation on the Protection of Women from KBG.

Among the policy documents developed with the support and advocacy of the BERANI program, there are several policy documents developed with the support of the BERANI program, such as policies related to improving the quality of midwives that focus on improving the quality of midwives through education and midwifery regulations, policies related to child and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, and policies related to responses to gender-based violence. In the Central Jakarta area, policy documents such as Law No. 4 of 2019 on Midwifery, Law No. 12 of 2022 on Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law), National Guidelines for the Management of Reproductive Health Education Programs in Junior High Schools, Guidelines for Reproductive Health Education Outside of School, and Reproductive Health Services through Youth Health Posts are policies created to support sexual and reproductive health education services for children and adolescents in areas where the BERANI program is implemented, including the Central Jakarta area.

These documents support the BERANI program's objectives of strengthening sexual and reproductive health education for children and adolescents, strengthening services so that the sexual and reproductive health services provided can serve as a bridge for children into adolescence to ensure optimal quality, strengthening the work of midwives so that they can become intermediaries for adolescent and women's communities as well as children for a healthier life, especially in the field of sexual and reproductive health. In addition to increasing knowledge or education about sexual and reproductive health, it can also strengthen services related to handling cases of gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as child marriage and female circumcision, and strengthen existing government service units in each region in order to find common ground between the knowledge possessed by children and adolescents, especially women, so that they experience improvement, health services also experience improvement, complaint services for prevention and handling are improved in the event of cases of violence.

### **Factors Hindering the Role of UNFPA**

In the cooperation between UNFPA and the Indonesian government through the implementation of the BERANI program, there are challenges and obstacles where UNFPA faces the challenge of having to work with multiple parties, including more than one ministry at the national level, and local government agencies at the district level, which are certainly numerous and pose a major challenge for UNFPA in coordinating its work with many parties. UNFPA interacts with parties that do not have the same "rhythm" as other parties, such as ministries that have their own functions, so it is more difficult to standardize priorities if there are parties that cannot move forward until other parties take the lead. In addition, there is the challenge of budget efficiency among governments, which did not exist before, causing the BERANI program, which had been running very well and was very successful, to share *its budget* with the government through donations from the Canadian government, which also contributed to the state budget and regional budgets, which were shared with the government, to undergo many replications so that the capital in the previous period could maximize activities and had adequate budgets, but now have to undergo cuts due to budget efficiency.

Currently, many national and local governments have agreed and are interested in adopting the program, but as a result of budget efficiency, the excellent national and local government ownership cannot be fully implemented. Therefore, reprioritization must be carried out so that the program can continue to run and government priorities can still be carried out. This is also one of the reasons why there are still several areas in Central Jakarta where services are not yet available, resulting in human resources skills that are not as strong as those of their predecessors. In order for the program to continue and be implemented, UNFPA must continue to run the BERANI program by collectively gathering innovations to address the challenges of budget efficiency and continue to coordinate with partners who have been working together.

#### **E. Conclusion**

*The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* is one of the international organizations under the *United Nations* that works in the field of population and reproductive health. It is mandated by the United Nations to ensure that every individual in the world can have and exercise their right to sexual and reproductive health. One of these rights is the right to receive education about sexual and reproductive health. Through the *Better Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights All in Indonesia* ( ) program, or BERANI, UNFPA demonstrates its dominant role as an independent actor that assists the Indonesian government in policy-making and advocacy, because the BERANI program would find it difficult to assist the Indonesian government if there were no supporting policies. Therefore, UNFPA, through the BERANI program, is working with the government to ensure that these supporting policies are issued and can also be used by midwives, teachers, and colleagues working in the field of sexual and reproductive health can work with the support of a more specific legal framework or regulations in order to fulfill children's sexual and reproductive health rights in obtaining sexual and reproductive health education that can be used by children until they reach adolescence and continue into old age.

This is because UNFPA's mandate is essentially to assist governments, and UNFPA cannot directly assist communities within a country. In addition, the BERANI program can only run optimally if there are policies and regulations that support its implementation. As an independent actor, UNFPA, through the BERANI program, assists the Indonesian government by coordinating with the government and partners and assisting in policy-making and advocacy. UNFPA's contribution to fulfilling children's sexual and reproductive health rights through the BERANI program has so far been in line with the strategies outlined in CPAP 9 and CPAP 10. However, in implementing this role, UNFPA has encountered obstacles that have reduced its effectiveness in Indonesia, such as budget efficiency measures that have ultimately forced it to cut back on activities carried out under the BERANI program. As a result, the realization of children's sexual and reproductive health rights is still far from expectations and is related to the difficulty of fulfilling children's sexual and reproductive health rights through educational services implemented by the BERANI program in Central Jakarta.

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