

ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUTH IN CRISIS

VOICES FROM CENTRAL SULAWESI,
INDONESIA



I hope we can have a permanent house soon, recover our livelihoods, and I hope to become a successful daughter who does not dwell on problems. I also hope that I will become a daughter that will make my parents proud.

Adolescent girl, 17

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Indonesia. Kementerian Kesehatan RI. Direktorat Jenderal
Kesehatan Masyarakat

**Remaja perempuan dan kaum muda dalam krisis :
suara dari sulawesi tengah Indonesia.—**

Jakarta : Kementerian Kesehatan RI. 2020

ISBN 978-602-416-905-3

1. Judul I. ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICE
II. PSYCHOLOGY, ADOLESCENT

ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUTH IN CENTRAL SULAWESI HAVE RAISED THEIR VOICES. FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI, THEY NOW FACE MULTI-DIMENTIONAL VULNERABILITIES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT HAS FOREVER CHANGED. DESPITE THE CHALLENGES THAT THEY FACE, ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUTH CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SELF WORTH, CONTRIBUTE TO THE SURVIVAL OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND REMAIN OPTIMISTIC FOR THE FUTURE. BY ADDRESSING ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR VULNERABILITY AND SUPPORTING THEIR RESILIENCE, A PATH FORWARD FROM THIS POST-DISASTER SITUATION WILL BE PAVED.

Foreword Ministry Of Health The Republic Of Indonesia

Adolescents and youth constitute a large portion of Indonesia's society, however, the fulfilment of their needs often goes unnoticed and unaddressed during disaster response efforts. This is true even though adolescents and youth face unique health risks that require our immediate attention and support.

During health crisis situations, disruptions to family and social structures may occur, including: family and community separations; academic disruption; and social network disconnections. This may cause fear, depression, and boredom among displaced adolescents.


I welcome and deeply appreciate the research publication of **“Adolescent Girls and Youth in Crisis: Voices from Central Sulawesi.”** This study reveals the experiences of adolescents and youth from a gender perspective on the post-disaster health crisis situation in Central Sulawesi 2018.

Adolescents and youth, particularly adolescent girls and young women, face various vulnerabilities such as access to clean water and sanitation, nutrition, health services, sense of safety, education, economic security, and violence (e.g. sexual violence and forced marriages). However, if given the proper opportunity, adolescent girls and young women can provide meaningful contributions to the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of various emergency response and post-disaster recovery programs.

In addition to shedding light on the various vulnerabilities of adolescents and youth—disaggregated by sex and age—within the local context of Central Sulawesi, this study also provides detailed recommendations that will hopefully raise the awareness of stakeholders and draw their attention to the specific needs of this group. We also hope that these recommendations will be taken under consideration during policy deliberations on the needs of adolescents and youth—male and female—and will allow them to actively participate during crisis situations.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Central Sulawesi Provincial Health Office, UNFPA, DFAT Australia, YPII, and everyone who has contributed their time and thoughts to this research and report. Indeed, the results of this study provide invaluable insight on how to meet the health needs and rights of adolescents and youth in crisis situations in Indonesia.

Jakarta, July 2019



Director of Family Health,
dr. Erna Mulati, MSc, CMFM

Foreword Director of Yayasan Plan International Indonesia

The earthquake and tsunami in September 2018 have brought significant attention to Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. As part of our mandate in the Country Strategy 4, Yayasan Plan International Indonesia has responded to the post-disaster situation. Furthermore, we stepped to a collaborative effort with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) to have research on adolescent girls and youth in a post-disaster situation as we have a shared concern. Henceforth, I am delighted to write the foreword of this report.

To distinguish from the series from 'Girls in Crisis' research reports in Plan International, this research contributes to the specific context within Indonesia and a particular type of crisis. Hence, it adds the nuance in the research area, which is needed in the Indonesian context. We aspire that children, adolescents, and youth in Central Sulawesi could feel the sense of normalcy after the disaster. The current lesser freedom of movement is a significant contrast to the pre-disaster situation where adolescent and young women had more freedom of movement. Before the disaster, adolescent girls and young women were more comfortable with spending time anywhere in the neighborhood and were permitted to go outside the community in the evening. The majority of adolescent and young women (85%) reported that they do not have a private area for self-care. It becomes a more significant concern during menstruation period where they must do self-care more frequently.

In a 'normal' situation, adolescent girls and youth have been struggling to keep their life safe from harassment and securing jobs. Even more challenging is their experience in post-disaster. Many places were closed, including schools and workplaces. They moved to shelters and temporary buildings with lots of strangers. They have to walk meters, sometimes in the dark to get into the shared bathroom.

As they shared their stories, we, as one of the custodians of the stories determined to support them. Their stories are to be heard by others; by governments and other organizations working in emergency responses.

This research report provides a considerable window of information on the experiences of adolescent girls and youth in the post-disaster context. It also covers substantial topics they had encountered and shared to us. Vulnerability and resiliency have been the nature we had found in the two groups in this research. Both adolescent girls and youth have demonstrated their strength in confronting the difficult circumstances. Nonetheless, the poignant encounters existed, and they coped with it.

It is my hope and expectation that the report provides insights and reference resource for all professionals working in emergency context as well as adolescent and youth-focused, leading to improve the emergency relief.



Chairperson of YPII

Dini Widiastuti

Foreword UNFPA

Representative In Indonesia

Adolescent girls and youth are specific groups with ideas, roles and resourcefulness. In times of emergencies, they have specific needs and vulnerabilities, - that requires multisectoral response with active engagement of all humanitarian organizations: government, civil society organizations, aid agencies and the adolescent and youth themselves.

The 28 September 2018 disaster that struck Central Sulawesi province left serious multifaceted impacts. It affected family and social structures and severely disrupted public facilities and basic services. It claimed 2,101 lives, injured 4,438 others and displaced around 133,631 people in the province's hardest hit Palu, Donggala, Sigi and Parimo districts. At the displaced people camps, access to basic needs and basic communal facilities, like food, clean water, toilet-bath-wash, health and Reproductive Health (ReproHealth) posts, schools and protection mechanism were lacking. This situation, further compounded by the lack of privacy in the tents, in the camps and in the communal facilities, may likely expose adolescent girls and youth to various risks, including gender-based violence. Especially those who lost loved ones were also in need of immediate access to psychosocial support to help them cope and rebuild their lives.

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA and Yayasan Plan Internasional Indonesia (YPPI) conducted a joint research with a focus on adolescent girls and youth in post disaster in Central Sulawesi. The research aims to understand adolescent girls and youth's perception of how the crisis affected their daily life, their coping mechanism to emergency situation and explore their vulnerabilities and resilience. It also identified actionable recommendations to improve humanitarian assistance by key stakeholders: government and humanitarian agencies.

This research was developed with the contribution of youth groups and youth forum members in Central Sulawesi, *Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia* (PKBI) Palu, Central Sulawesi Provincial Health Office with funding support from Australian AID (DFAT).

Adolescents and young people's rights, security, and well-being that are central to UNFPA mandate, can be better achieved with a shift of paradigm: from working *for* young people, to working *in partnership with* young people. Fostering their involvement would help ensure youth-friendly approaches in the humanitarian phase, recovery and longer term development. By working together with youth, we can tap into their initiatives and resourcefulness to address their own vulnerabilities and challenges in disaster situations. We need to invest in young people and build their potentials to enable these future leaders contribute to families and society.

I hope this research report with its findings and recommendations will contribute to improving multisectoral humanitarian response to protect the rights and wellbeing of adolescent girls and youth. It is further hoped that through a comprehensive adolescent girls and youth programme their meaningful participation and leadership in crisis situation could be further enhanced.

Jakarta, June 2019



UNFPA Representative a.i in Indonesia

Najib Assifi



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