

The graphic features a large blue circle in the center containing the title. Above the circle is a yellow sun and a blue cloud. To the left of the circle is a green circle with a brain icon. To the right is a green circle with a lightbulb icon. Below the circle is an orange banner with the subtitle. The background shows a stylized city with various colored buildings and green trees. A large hand is holding a red smartphone in the foreground. Dotted lines connect the icons to the city buildings.

INVESTING in YOUNG PEOPLE in INDONESIA

Inspirational Young Leaders
Driving Social Change

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Disclaimer

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UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon in his World Population Day address this year said, “I call on all those with influence to prioritise youth in development planning, to strengthen partnerships with youth-led organisations, and to involve young people in making the decisions that affect them. By empowering today’s youth, together we can lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future for generations to come”.

At the United Nations, we work with young people not only as a target group for development, but as potential initiators, participants, decision-makers and leaders. We aim to place young people at the centre of what we do.

Recognising the importance of young people in development, the United Nations country team in Indonesia in 2013 established the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD). The network aims to coordinate contributions by UN agencies in Indonesia already working on youth development, thereby making the UN response stronger and more effective.

This publication is another initiative by the United Nations in Indonesia, particularly United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to prioritise young people and highlight their potential contributions to a sustainable future for Indonesia. We at the UN hope to continue working with our partners from the Government of Indonesia as the country transitions to a new government in 2014 and beyond.

The stories in this booklet inspire confidence for a bright future for Indonesia. To all of Indonesia’s talented young people, my message is this: the world will face great challenges in your lifetime. I have faith that you can manage them. Go ahead and ask the big questions. Take the time to find out who you are and how you can contribute. Develop your skills. Find mentors to support you. Surround yourself with the best, and you will achieve the best. Your life is what you make of it. ■

Douglas Broderick
UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia



Today, adolescents and youth represent the largest generation in human history. One third to almost one half of the population in developing countries is under 20 years old. The challenges and opportunities brought by this demographic change need to be addressed and harnessed in order to achieve national development goals. Their transition into adulthood needs to be understood within a larger development context. Increased poverty, social inequalities, low quality education, gender discrimination, widespread unemployment, weakened health systems and rapid globalisation are the realities that young people now face.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is mandated by the Programme of Action developed at the International Conference on Population and Development to promote the empowerment and well-being of young people and to ensure their safe transition to adulthood. To do so, we need to secure young people's participation in and rights to education, work opportunities and health services. Enabling young people to make choices about their sexual and reproductive health has tremendous bearing on all aspects of their lives, including their health, education, employment and participation in society.

The theme of World Population Day in 2014 is 'Investing in Young People'. Adolescents and youth are central to the future development agenda. A safe, and successful and healthy passage from adolescence into adulthood is the right of every youth. This right can only be fulfilled if families and societies make focused investments and provide opportunities to ensure that young people progressively develop the knowledge, skills and resilience needed for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life.

Youth have a valuable contribution to make in Indonesia. When youth are engaged in processes to influence the policy decisions that affect them, they have the ability to improve the policy focus, find innovative solutions and increase youth participation. Young people need to provide advice and technical guidance on how to best manage the issues that affect them. There is a duty on the part of governments around the world to assist and collaborate with young people to reach these goals.

It is with great appreciation that UNFPA extends its gratitude to all those involved in this report; to the young author Ms. Alanda Kariza, our Youth Advocate Mr Angga Dwi Martha, and our Youth Advisory Panel who provided expertise in the writing of the report. We also thank our Programme Officer for Youth and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH), Ms. Margaretha Sitanggang our editor, Ms. Catriona Croft-Cusworth, and youth leaders and networks that have given their time to collaborate on and finalise this report.

Today's youth have higher expectations than the generations before them, with a stronger grasp of their rights and a clearer vision of what they are capable of accomplishing. The aim of this booklet is to showcase how investing in young people will benefit their future, and Indonesia's development. We believe that the young people in this booklet are the leaders in their fields and making real change for development.

I hope you will be inspired by their stories. ■

Jose Ferraris
UNFPA Representative in Indonesia

Why invest in young people?

- A safe, successful and healthy passage from adolescence into adulthood is the right of every child. This right can only be fulfilled if families and societies make focused investments and provide opportunities to ensure that adolescents and youth progressively develop the knowledge, skills and resilience needed for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life.
- Adolescents and youth are central to the future development agenda. Safeguarding their rights and investing in their future by providing quality education, decent employment, effective livelihood skills, and access to health services that emphasize gender and power, is essential to their development and that of their families, communities and countries.
- More girls are finishing primary school, but they are facing challenges in accessing and completing secondary education, a critical source of skills in changing economies.
- The largest generation of adolescents is entering sexual and reproductive life. Yet there has been too little progress in preventing adolescent pregnancies, maternal death, sexually transmitted infections and transmission of HIV and there are also significant gaps in availability and quality of, and access to, sexual and reproductive health services and education for young people.
- As girls move into adolescence and young adulthood, their needs for SRH services increase acutely. Lack of access to SRH services can have lasting impact on a girl's health and opportunities.
- Young people are still too often excluded from decision-making processes that directly affect their lives. Only 76 percent of countries report instituting concrete procedures and mechanisms for the participation of adolescents and youth in making decisions that affect them.
- By ensuring that young people are equipped with the agency, knowledge and skills they will need, youth-centred programmes can contribute to the efforts of young people and governments to end inter-generational poverty, illiteracy, gender-based violence, and gender inequality.
- With investments that give young people choices in all aspects of their lives, create conditions for them to participate in decisions that influence their future, and overcome barriers to their well-being, countries can increase their demographic dividends. ■

Priority Areas of Concern for Indonesian Youth

Education: Access is a challenge for those in rural and remote areas, for youth in special conditions and for young people with special needs. Bridging education to employment is essential to prepare young people to enter the job market and for long-term employment. Young Indonesians voice common concerns about the quality of education, the need for inclusive education and a non-discriminatory experience. Sexual and reproductive health needs to be urgently and appropriately included in school curricula to ensure young people make safe, responsible and smart decisions about their futures.

Health: There are seven major health categories of concern for young people, including sanitation, personal hygiene, risky behaviors, sexual and reproductive health, and new and re-emerging diseases. Youth themselves have also expressed three additional issues as important health priorities: smoking behaviour, increasing morbidity of non-communicable disease and harmful traditional practices.

Economic opportunities: Problems of access to economic opportunities for youth are closely linked to education and poverty issues in Indonesia. Traditional (and available) work, such as farming, is not viewed by many young people as providing a decent income. The motivation to obtain a higher income, together with high rates of unemployment, has driven many young people to become self-employed.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT): ICT is a crosscutting issue and is rapidly influencing how youth communicate, learn and work. Indonesia needs to harness the educational and economic value of ICT, as well as deal with the negative impacts.

Citizenship: Young Indonesians do not yet fully embrace or take advantage of citizenship. A combination of education, awareness and skepticism contributes to low levels of civic participation. There are some positive trends as well, including the growing role of volunteerism.

Safety and Security: The four main areas considered to be of critical importance to youth are bullying, workplace safety and security, underage and/or child labor, and gender-based violence (GBV).

Environment, Culture and Traditions: Environmental and climate based challenges are seen by young people as a critical area of concern. Focus group discussion participants cite a need to change lifestyles and policies in Indonesia in order to contribute to and “create a better world”. Several cultural and traditional factors support the development of young people. This includes “friendly and positive” support from young people’s social environments, including from parents, teachers, public figures and other adults. To help create a decent and inspiring life for young people, adults need to be available as positive role models.





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