

## **UNICEF's Involvement in Reducing Cases of Female Genital Mutilation in Indonesia, 2014–2021**



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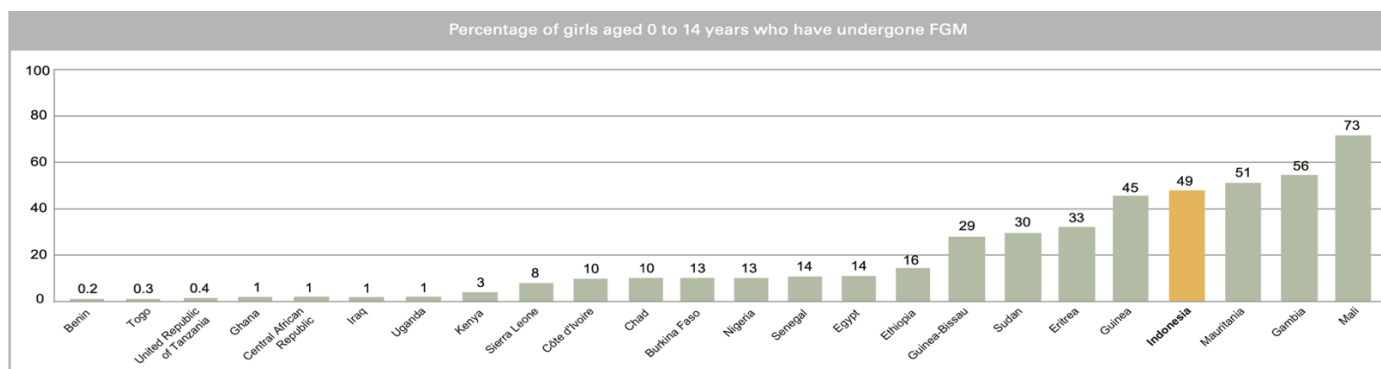
**ABSTRACT:** FGM is the practice of injuring the female external genitalia, which is carried out on girls aged 0–14 years, and this practice has been declared a violation of human rights. As an international organization whose goal is to realize children's rights, since 2008 UNICEF has strongly opposed this practice and promised to provide assistance to countries experiencing FGM, including Indonesia. Indonesia has been declared the fourth country in the world to carry out FGM practices and this must receive serious attention. Through qualitative research using international organization theory, the authors will analyze the extent of UNICEF's roles and strategies in helping reduce the practice of Female Genital Mutilation in Indonesia. The findings from this study indicate that UNICEF has carried out several programs such as agreements with the Indonesian government, disseminating information to Indonesian communities, activists and society, and providing legal assistance or advocacy to stop FGM cases. However, there had been policy dynamics from the Indonesian government towards this practice, causing obstacles that made the realization of eliminating the practice of FGM slow.

**KEYWORDS:** Female Genital Mutilation, UNICEF, SDGs, Human Rights

### **INTRODUCTION**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or what is often referred to by Indonesian people as female circumcision or female circumcision is a practice with medical or non-medical assistance to remove, slice off part or all of the female external genitalia (WHO, 2008). This practice is included in the issue of inequality, which violates gender-based human rights because it takes away women's right to control over their own bodies. Many Indonesians think that the practice of FGM is a tradition that is often associated with religion and cultural traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. Moreover, this was reinforced by the fatwa of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) in 2008, which issued Fatwa Decree of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) No. 9A of 2008 concerning the prohibition of female circumcision is contrary to Islamic symbols and female circumcision as makrumah (glorifying) women (Sulistiyawati & Hakim, 2022). FGM brings serious health complications for women because it can cause bleeding, infection, urinary retention, cysts, infertility, and psychological disorders such as stress and depression, and can even cause death (UNICEF, 2020).

Various countries have held meetings to discuss FGM such as The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and many other agreements involving many countries to commit to issuing policies that can reduce cases of FGM in their respective countries. FGM brings serious health complications for women because it can cause bleeding, infection, urinary retention, cysts, infertility, and psychological disorders such as stress and depression and can even cause death (UNICEF, 2020). Various countries have held meetings to discuss FGM, such as The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and many other agreements involving many countries that commit to issuing policies that can reduce cases of FGM in their respective countries. There are 31 countries in the world with 200 million girls practicing FGM/C (UNICEF, 2022a). Based on data released by the Population and Health Survey, RISKESDAS and the Welfare Monitoring Survey, it shows that the percentage of girls aged 0 to 14 who practice FGM/C in the world shows that Indonesia ranks 4th in the world with a score of 49 on a scale of 0-100.



**Figure 1.1: Percentage of girls aged 0 to 14 years who have undergone FGM**

**Data Source:** DHS, MICS, Survei Kependudukan dan Kesehatan, RISKESDAS dan Survei Pemantauan Kesejahteraan, 2019.

The practice of FGM/C in Indonesia was carried out on around 13.4 million girls with an age range of 0–11 years in 2016 (UNICEF, 2019). Through the Basic Health Research Survey (RISKESDAS) summarized by UNICEF in 2019 regarding Female Genital Mutilation in 33 provinces and 497 districts/cities, it is known that the practice of FGM in Indonesia is of Type I, namely the practice of FGM by partially or completely cutting off the clitoris (clitoridectomy), and Type IV, namely by cutting, scraping, piercing and stretching the female genitalia). The practice of FGM has spread in Indonesia from Sumatra, Java, Nusa Tenggara, Kalimantan and Sulawesi (Sulistiyawati & Hakim, 2022). Based on UNICEF research in 2019, of the 33 provinces identified as practicing this practice, the province with the highest rate was Gorontalo (80%) (UNICEF, 2019). Then, through the health system research bulletin states were identified in West Java Province (14.7%), North Sumatra Province (8.1%), and East Java (7.3%) (Zainul et al., 2015). In 2017, a study by PSKK UGM on 4,250 households in 10 Indonesian provinces showed that at most 92.7 percent of the total respondents stated that they had performed female circumcision because they did not have sufficient knowledge and a complete understanding of religion (UGM, 2020).

As an international organization whose goal is to help create a decent life for children, UNICEF under the United Nations (UN) carries out various collaborations with various countries that still carry out FGM/C practices against girls (UNICEF, 2022b). The United Nations through UNICEF has issued a number of funds to countries that practice FGM so that data can reduce the percentage of FGM occurring by 40 percent in 16 countries by 2015, including Indonesia. UNICEF's seriousness to help reduce FGM cases in Indonesia was proven again in 2016 coinciding with the International Day of Zero Tolerance against FGM/C inviting the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection namely Minister Yohana Yembis as Indonesia's representative to help to emphasize that this practice continues to decrease (Merdeka, 2016).

**ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK**

To analyze the role played by UNICEF in reducing cases of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in Indonesia, the authors will use a theoretical framework based on International Organization theory. International Organization Theory is a theory born from the perspective of liberalism. According to the perspective of liberalism, all problems that occur within a country can be resolved through international organizations (Hennida, 2015). Strengthened by the opinion of international relations scientists after the end of the cold war who said that international organizations are one of the most important actors in global politics because they have a wider range of issues than state actors. There are three approaches in international organization theory according to the book International Organizations and Implementation to realize the goals of international organizations, namely the enforcement approach, management approach and normative approach (Reinalda, Verbeek, and Joachim 2008).

**Enforcement approach** is an approach that uses punishment through monitoring and sanctions against bound countries so that compliance with international agreements can be established. Countries that have been involved will provide regular progress reports on their activities to the international organization that oversees them or during field visits by representatives of international organizations. If a member violates an international agreement, they will receive sanctions, namely naming and shaming (shaming and disseminating violations committed by the country that ultimately harm the country).

**Management approach** is an approach that is carried out by finding the most efficient way through joint problem solving, the interpretation of rules, capacity building and transparency. The first step taken by this type of approach is to cooperate and carry out supervision through Non Government Organizations, government reports, and special committees for countries that are bound by an agreement. Furthermore, international organizations hold discussions to come up with appropriate suggestions. Then we achieved capacity building, namely increasing capacity in security, law and guarding the country's borders. Finally, solving problems by means of international organizations providing technical and financial assistance to countries.

**Normative approach** is an approach in which the state gives authority to international organizations to carry out tasks because they have knowledge, experience in that field and international organizations are considered the most neutral or impartial to other

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countries. According to this approach, with arguments and special knowledge from international organizations, countries will fulfill these international commitments without coercion. (Reinalda, Verbeek, and Joachim 2008, 11-12).

In this study, the authors analyzed using the theory of International Organizations that UNICEF is an international organization whose goal is to address cases of FGM practice in Indonesia using a management approach. UNICEF took the first step, namely in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to make a joint target to eliminate FGM practices in accordance with SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) point 5 so that by 2030 there will be no more cases of FGM practices in all countries in the world. Apart from that regarding the practice of FGM in Indonesia, UNICEF certainly works with the Indonesian government, especially through the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KemenPPPA), KOMNAS Perempuan, and activists. With this collaboration, UNICEF said there was increasing momentum discussing the dangers of FGM practices and data indicated disagreement from some communities regarding this practice (BBC, 2016).

Besides that, there is also an increase in the quality of the law, namely with the existence of an International Agreement which has been ratified by Indonesia in this case as in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by the UN general assembly through the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 1984 concerning Ratification of the Convention Concerning the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Through this legal product, the Indonesian government issued another domestic action through Permenkes No. 6 of 2014, which contains the revocation of the previous regulation and states that it is not permissible to commit acts of female genital mutilation (Farida et al., 2018) and Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017, which contains commitments and steps taken by the government for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which is gender equality (Bappenas, 2017). Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 Section on Gender Equality Point 3 shows that the Indonesian government has committed and formed a strategy to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child marriage, early and forced marriage, and female circumcision (Kemenkopmk, 2017).

### **FINDINGS AND RESULTS**

#### **A. UNICEF Program for Reducing FGM Cases in the World**

The United Nations Children's Fund or the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations which operates in the field of child welfare. On December 11, 1946 UNICEF began to help children during the war at that time and began to develop in 1953 addressing the needs of children around the world, especially in developing countries. Currently, UNICEF works in 190 countries with New York as its headquarters. UNICEF has the goal of protecting the rights of children around the world and ensuring they get justice for their lives. One of them is to eradicate the practice of FGM worldwide (UNICEF, n.d.). UNICEF has programs to eliminate FGM practices in 22 countries in Africa, several immigrant communities in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Australia, as well as several countries in the Middle East and Asian countries including Indonesia (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2010). UNICEF works with governments, communities, women's activists, children, communities and global engagement to end this practice together through several approaches:

#### **Assistance and improvement of policies and laws regarding FGM.**

UNICEF provides assistance to local governments on the creation of laws, policy frameworks at the national and local levels that can protect girls from discrimination and gender-based violence including FGM. In addition to providing assistance, UNICEF is also improving the implementation of these laws and policies through the health services sector and legal quality, such as court proceedings against FGM perpetrators. One of the programs is the joint program between UNICEF and UNFPA. Of the 17 countries participating in this program, 14 of them already have laws to penalize perpetrators of FGM practices. As in Egypt in 2021, which has imposed prison terms of up to 20 years if found guilty (UNICEF, 2020).

#### **Fund Contribution**

UNICEF has provided financial assistance to national and local governments to work towards eliminating the practice of FGM. UNICEF also ensures that these funds are channeled to improve the quality of data services that can measure the achievement of SDG 5.3 targets by 2030 and improve girls' education so they can advocate for the elimination of FGM against their peers. The involvement of girls is very important to affect more equitable social change.

#### **Improve Girls' Education**

As explained above, education has an important role to play in reducing FGM cases. Women who have a higher level of education can stop continuing the practice of FGM (UNICEF, 2013). Education can end FGM because women have a more stable economy, impacting marriage at a ripe marriage age and stopping future generations from engaging in FGM.

#### **Building a Movement or Community that Can End FGM**

Through the involvement of the community, girls, social movements can play an important role in ending the practice of FGM. Women's communities and movements can represent other women's voices and influence decision-making and local government

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policies that are safe from a women's perspective. Such as Unleashing Youth Power which was formed by UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2019 coincides with the International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM. Unleashing Youth Power is a youth-led movement to fight for gender equality, end and raise awareness about violence against women and girls, and eradicate harmful practices by 2030. Also in the country of Mali, West Africa UNICEF-UNFPA has created a community involving girls and youth in Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Ségou and Bamako. With this community, 1,027 men, 2,791 women, 338 boys, and 664 girls participated in awareness raising sessions on FGM practices, resulting in the prevention of 165 girls aged 0–9 years from undergoing FGM (UNFPA-UNICEF, 2021).

### **Community Mobilization**

Mobilization is the simultaneous mobilization of society through community dialogue about gender and social norms. Once enough community members had formed the masses through this process, they made a public declaration to adopt a new norm, namely being aware of discrimination against gender, one of which is the practice of FGM. Following this declaration, UNICEF established or strengthened local monitoring systems such as community-based child protection committees to monitor and report if there are girls who are at risk of or experience cases of FGM.

### **Involve men and boys in campaigns to eliminate FGM.**

The UNICEF program to eradicate the practice of FGM does not only involve women but also provides critical reflection and sexual health education for men and boys so that they understand the dangers and fight for the elimination of the practice of FGM.

### **Communication for Development (C4D)**

Communication for development is an information delivery strategy that is used through mass media, social media and digital tools such as the U-Report to disseminate information about the dangers and wrong culture in the practice of FGM and teach gender-friendly parenting. At the start of COVID-19 UNICEF provided an opportunity to share knowledge around the world through a webinar on FGM during the COVID-19 crisis and digital movements to support changes in social norms which has been attended by more than 150 participants (UNICEF, 2020).

## **B. UNICEF Program for Reducing FGM Cases in Indonesia**

UNICEF had started its program in Indonesia in 1948 in Lombok to help prevent famine there (UNICEF, n.d.). For more than 60 years, UNICEF has targeted providing programs, funds and support equally to millions of Indonesian children based in Jakarta and seven field offices namely East Java, Aceh, East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, South Sulawesi, Papua and West Papua (UNICEF, n.d.). UNICEF's efforts to reduce the practice of FGM in Indonesia which hinders the realization of protection and a decent life for children have been realized by UNICEF through several programs between UNICEF and many parties such as the Government, NGOs, activists and the community (UNICEF, n.d.).

### **1. UNICEF Agreements and Cooperation with the Government of Indonesia and NGOs.**

In 2008, UNICEF and other UN partners strongly opposed this practice and stated that they were ready to help every country stop FGM cases in that country, including Indonesia (RH Knowledge, 2020). Even though in the previous year there had been a meeting and appeal from UNICEF to Indonesia, September 25, 2015 was the start of a global agreement under the United Nations (UN) regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by various countries including Indonesia. The existence of this agreement is a new gateway for Indonesia to be able to commit to SDG issues, one of which is gender equality, which is the goal of eliminating FGM practices. After this agreement was reached, UNICEF continued to campaign and appealed to the Government of Indonesia through the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, namely Minister Yohana Yembise as Indonesia's representative on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C to state that they are ready to work with data and techniques so that this practice continued to decrease. in Indonesia (Merdeka, 2016). The cooperation between Indonesia and the United Nations through UNICEF gave birth to an outcome, namely the issuance of Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 which contains commitments and steps taken by the government for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which is gender equality (Bappenas, 2017). Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 Section on Gender Equality Point 3 shows that the Indonesian government has committed and formed a strategy to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child marriage, early and forced marriage, and female circumcision (Kemenkopmk, 2017).

UNICEF is also working with UNFPA and being funded by Global Affairs Canada to create a program called Better Reproductive Health and Rights for All in Indonesia (BERANI) in 2018 to assist the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KemenPPPA) and the Indonesian Ministry of Health in reducing the practice of FGM. The BERANI program aims to improve the quality of medical personnel, especially midwives in order to reduce maternal mortality, provide information to the public about reproductive health and child marriage, and of course change attitudes towards gender-based violence. Through this program, KemenPPPA will carry out a family advocacy strategy for religious leaders, youth and NGOs so that later the stigma regarding strong religions practicing FGM can be removed (Antara, 2018).



### 2. UNICEF disseminate Information About FGM Practice Issues

In disseminating information about the dangers of this practice, UNICEF takes an approach to all elements such as through young people as the generation that will continue civilization. Not only for women, it is very important to convey information by involving men and boys so that they recognize and know that the practice of FGM is a practice that is detrimental and takes the form of violence for women. The involvement of young people in the dissemination of information carried out in schools and lectures plays a very important role in ending the practice of FGM (UNFPA, 2020). Through UNICEF's involvement in the practice of FGM in Indonesia, UNICEF said there was increasing momentum discussing the dangers of FGM practice (BBC, 2016). Such is the commitment that has been proven by the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) which calls on all government, community, religious, professional, and community organizations to stop this practice. A roadmap and Action Plan for FGM Prevention 2020-2030 have even been prepared. The Indonesian Ministry of Health has also carried out activities to disseminate information through the Training Module for Case Management of Violence against Women and Children (KtPA), Maternal and Child Health Books (KIA), compiling Educational Information Communication (IEC) media so that medical staff and the public can clearly know regarding the disadvantages of this practice (Thenniarti, 2021).

The focus of conveying FGM issues is not only on the general public, but religious leaders have played a critical role in eliminating FGM cases in Indonesia. With assistance from many parties such as UNFPA, KemenPPPA, KOMNAS Perempuan, Indonesian Women's Ulema Congress (KUPI), women activists held discussions with groups of scholars, Islamic boarding schools and other religious organizations. Having discussions involving religious leaders can bring perspectives from all parties regarding the dangers of this FGM practice together. Even though there is an MUI fatwa No. 9A of 2008 which prohibits the existence of a prohibition on the practice of FGM and states that female circumcision is a glorification, Arif Fahrudin as an Ulama from the MUI is of the opinion that FGM which is haram is dangerous, while the symbolic (harmless) one, such as rubbing with turmeric, if it is carried out as part of Islamic symbols it may not be prohibited (UNFPA, 2021).

UNICEF has also published reports on the contribution of FGM in Indonesia in the form of Annual Reports, FGM Performance Reports and various articles and UNICEF has also conducted several studies and surveys, one of which is the Basic Health Research Survey (RISKESDAS) which was summarized by UNICEF in 2019 regarding Female Genital Mutilation. In 33 provinces and 497 districts/cities, it is known that the practice of FGM in Indonesia is in Type I, namely the practice of FGM by partially or completely cutting off the clitoris (clitoridectomy) and Type IV, namely by cutting, scratching, piercing and stretching the female genitalia (UNICEF, 2019). Through this survey, the public can find out that there are various types of FGM practices and that Indonesia is a country that has been proven to practice FGM. Through the dissemination of information that initially only focused on UNICEF and other UN partners, now the issue of the practice of FGM as a practice that is harmful to women is becoming known to the public and being discussed on various occasions.

### 3. Legal Assistance Regarding FGM Practices in Indonesia

Law is a very important instrument in achieving the goals of international organizations. Therefore, in carrying out their duties, UNICEF always asks the state to strictly make rules regarding the appropriate punishment to be given to people who practice FGM or to issue a ban on FGM in order to accelerate the eradication of this practice. Previously, Indonesia had made several articles obliging all Indonesians to provide protection for children. 1945 Constitution Article 28B Paragraph (2) (UUD 1945 Pasal 28B Ayat (2)) is the legal basis for child protection in Indonesia which states that every child has the right to survive, grow, develop and is entitled to protection from violence and discrimination. In addition, there is Indonesian Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990 concerning Ratification of the Convention on the Right of the Child (Convention on the Rights of the Child) as a result of Indonesia's ratification and commitment to CRC. Meanwhile, to regulate the protection of children, Indonesia has issued Law Number 23 of 2002 (UU Nomor 23 Tahun 2002) which was later refined through Law Number 35 of 2014 (UU No. 35 tahun 2014) which states that child protection is all activities to guarantee and protect children and their rights so that they live, grow, develop and participate optimally in accordance with human dignity and dignity, and receive special protection for children is a form of protection received by children in certain situations and conditions to get a guarantee of a sense of security against threats that endanger themselves and their lives in their development (article 1).

The practice of FGM as a form of discriminatory violence against children is actually implicitly included in several articles regarding child protection mentioned above, but to stop this practice the Indonesian government must issue a legal instrument that was created to stop this practice. Finally in 2006, the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Health issued Director General of Community Health Development Circular No. HK.00.07.1.3.1047 of 2006 regarding the prohibition of this practice for medical personnel because most medical personnel in Indonesia participate in the practice of FGM and this practice has been proven in the medical world to have no benefit at all. Unfortunately, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) responded to this decision by issuing MUI Fatwa No. 9A of 2008 which explains that female circumcision is a symbol in Islam and explains guidelines for its implementation. The practice of FGM as a form of discriminatory violence against children is actually implicitly included in several articles regarding child protection mentioned above, but to stop this practice the Indonesian

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Seeing this response, the Ministry of Health issued a Minister of Health Regulation in PERMENKES No. 1636/2010 which states; *"Do a scratch on the skin that covers the front of the clitoris (frenulum clitoris) using a 20G-22G disposable sterile needle tip from the side of the mucosa towards the skin, without injuring the clitoris"* (Article 4 paragraph 2 (letter g))

Unfortunately, this regulation even seems to support the medicalization of practice where health workers are given the authority to carry out FGM practices so that this practice can be carried out safely, but medicalization does not gain recognition in the medical world because it has been stated that there is no knowledge about this practice. This regulation then received reprimands and advocacy by UNICEF and other UN partners, so that it had to be repealed and was only valid for 4 years. In 2014, the Ministry of Health finally replaced the previous regulation with Minister of Health Regulation No. 6 of 2014 which contains the revocation of the previous regulation and states that female circumcision is not a medical action because it is not proven to be beneficial for women or girls both medically and scientifically.

It doesn't stop there, the Government of Indonesia in the same year through the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KPPPA) has also issued advocacy and outreach guidelines regarding FGM practices for the community so that people can prevent and understand that this practice is just a patriarchal tradition and culture (YKP), n.d.). Several groups of women's activists welcomed this new regulation enthusiastically and supported the steps taken by the Government of Indonesia (Ministry of Health RI, 2010). However, on the other hand, the dynamics of the regulations regarding FGM have confused other medical personnel. Not to mention, if you look at the people who at that time mostly encouraged medical staff to take action on their daughters (Komnas Perempuan, 2019).

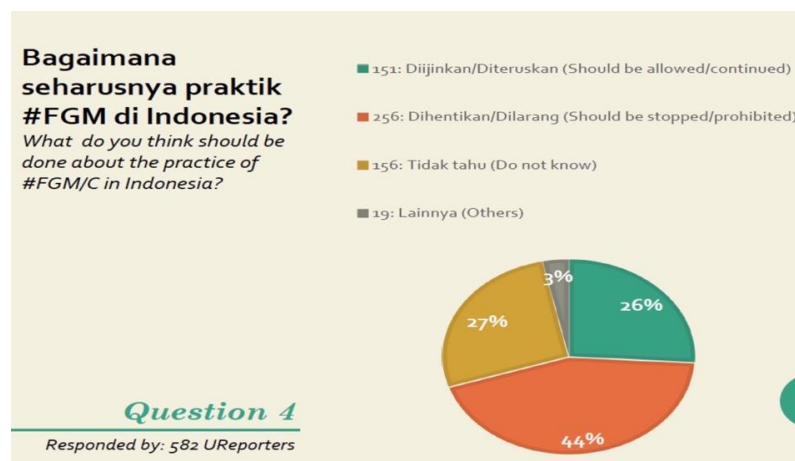
In addition to the policies above, Women's Commission (*Komnas Perempuan*) also helps remind the Government of Indonesia to eliminate the practice of FGM according to the urgency in:

1. Undang-Undang Dasar 1945 Pasal 28H(1), 28I(2);
2. Undang-Undang Nomor 7 Tahun 1984 concerning the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
3. Undang-Undang Nomor 39 Tahun 1999 concerning Human Right Pasal 3 ayat 3 dan Pasal 4
4. Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2002 concerning child protection Pasal 3 dan Pasal 13 ayat 1
5. Undang – Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence Pasal 5 – 8;
6. Undang-Undang Nomor 36 Tahun 2009 concerning health Pasal 71
7. WHO resolution in 2008 (WHA61.16) on the elimination of FGM stressed the need for integrated action across all sectors of health, education, finance, justice and women's affairs.
8. The United Nations has declared February 6th as International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
9. As a goal of the SDGs (2015), especially point 5.3 (Komnas Perempuan, 2021).

### C. Results of the UNICEF Program on Reducing FGM Cases

Through the involvement of UNICEF and the strategy implemented by UNICEF above, the practice of FGM has shown a significant decline. At the start of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Program in 2008, there were 42 million people committed to eliminating the practice of FGM (UNFPA-UNICEF, 2021). Even though in 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was a challenge to reduce the number of FGM practices, the program carried out by UNICEF together with other UN partners globally has resulted in 79,863,144 people being involved through digital approaches and promoting campaigns to eliminate FGM practices, 120,605 women have been saved from this practice, 2,220,937 people have declared their abandonment of the practice of FGM, and there are already 1,792 communities in the world willing to become watchdogs to protect girls and women from harmful practices including FGM practices (UNFPA-UNICEF, Annual Report 2020).

Meanwhile in Indonesia, UNICEF, through its U-Report social media platform, conducted a survey regarding FGM among young people aged 13 and 24 with 3,000 responses resulting in:



**Figure 2. Survey Report on Youth Perspectives about FGM**

**Data Source:** U-Report Indonesia Retrieved from <https://indonesia.ureport.in/story/365/>

The report found that 44 percent of respondents considered the practice of FGM to be harmful and that 22 percent considered the practice of FGM to be a violation of human rights or that the practice of FGM resulted in negative health consequences. More than half of respondents (54 percent) think that FGM is a practice caused by religion or culture.

## CONCLUSIONS

This research shows that UNICEF has contributed to several programs to reduce FGM cases in Indonesia, such as the UNICEF cooperation agreement with the Government of Indonesia. As a state actor that has an important role in making policies and laws, UNICEF together with the national and local governments entered into an agreement from 2021-2025 to provide protection for Indonesian children and budgeted funds totaling 2,07 trillion rupiahs for this collaboration. UNICEF also conducts information dissemination through FGM annual reports, disseminates information on the dangers of FGM to the Indonesian people and holds discussions with activists, NGOs and even religious leaders to provide a different perspective on the dangers of FGM. It didn't stop there, UNICEF provided legal assistance so that Indonesia, which initially did not have a specific law against this practice, finally issued Regulation of the Minister of Health No. 6 of 2014 which prohibits medical personnel and the whole community from carrying out the practice of FGM because it is very dangerous for girls.

Through several policies and results that have been submitted, it is stated that UNICEF's involvement in Indonesia to reduce the practice of FGM has shown very significant results. In addition to the legal products that have been mentioned, the dissemination of information about the dangers of this practice has educated Indonesians to start leaving FGM. A survey conducted by U-Report has shown that 3,000 respondents aged 13 to 24 all show dislike for the practice of FGM, understand that it is dangerous to health and believe that this practice is only done because of culture. The author suggests that future research should prove how much the percentage of these cases has decreased in Indonesia and analyze whether the agreement made by UNICEF with Indonesia to eliminate this practice by 2030 is realized.

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