Vulnerabilities Assessment of Children and Families: Understanding Risks, Barriers, and Possibilities for Family-Based Support Models

A Study in Central Java, South Sulawesi, and DKI Jakarta

Center on Child Protection

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BACKGROUND
Children in Indonesia

25 million are living in poor and vulnerable households with limited access to basic social services such as education and health services

44,335 children with disabilities

44 percent of children in the age of 13 and 18 are out of school

24 million do not have birth certificates

1,76 million child laborers

3,2 million neglected children
Policy Approach and Practice

Paradigm shift from institutionalization to family-based services

Expansion of social assistance programs for families and children within national poverty reduction strategies

Programs are still fragmented, ad hoc and rehabilitative, poorly targeted, and assistance are not directly affecting children’s wellbeing
Advocacy Focus

Achieving an integrated and sustainable social protection system that strengthens families and promotes children’s welfare through a strong partnership between policy-makers, academics and civil society
Advocacy Work

Partners

Activities
Strategic partners workshop with Ministry of Planning
Research on child protection and social protection—AIPJ, Ministry of National Planning
Partnership with AusAid and UNICEF to strengthen child protection within the national child and family welfare system
Engagements with strategic partners to mainstreamed social protection for children
VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ASSESSMENT
Gaps in Research

Current poverty reduction policies focusing on economic deprivation have given less attention to other conditions that contributed to the complex issue of poverty faced by families with children. Existing data captures children within households resulted in provision of services focusing for children living with families. A comprehensive study is critically needed to understand the risks that increase children and family’s vulnerability.
Objective

To understand poverty and vulnerability among children; their access to services; and policy proposals to tackle the challenges they face.

Serves as a building block for development of a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy, including enhancing the capacity of the child protection sector through providing family support services.
Research Questions

- What are the underlying factors related to children and family that are influencing children to be vulnerable to exploitation/abuse/neglect including family separation?
- What are the vulnerabilities faced by children living in family care and outside of family care?
- What are the vulnerabilities faced by families to provide care for their children including reasons for sending their children to residential care?
- What are the challenges experienced by communities to provide support and protection for exploited/abused/neglected/vulnerable children?
- What types of formal and informal family-assistance services exist and suitable for vulnerable children and families?
- What are the barriers within the systems that constraint vulnerable children and families to access existing basic social services (including social protection)?
- What additional services and supports are required to reduce children’s vulnerability?
Conceptual Framework

Children’s vulnerability to being exploited, abused, neglected; to early marriage; to missing out on basic education; and to be living outside of family care (including in residential institutions or on the streets)

Ecological approach to provide a comprehensive framework to understand various risk factors that can increase the vulnerability of a child or a family – child, family, and environment risk factors
Research Model

Child Risk Factors
- Gender
- Age
- Exposure to work
- Exposure to violence
- Risky behaviors such as smoking, drinking, use of drugs
- Health conditions
- Disability

Family Risk Factors
- Mother’s education level
- Unemployment
- Single parent households
- Household heads health conditions

Vulnerability
- School dropout
- Repeating grades
- Working
- Living in Institutions
- No access to social assistance or basic services
- Experiencing violence
Desk review
Analysis of secondary datasets IFLS and SUSENAS
South Sulawesi, DKI Jakarta, Central Java
600 surveys of children 13-18 in institutions
Case studies in DKI Jakarta on children living with HIV/AIDS, children victims of trafficking, children in conflict with the law, homeless families
Focus group discussions, group interviews, and in-depth interviews with parents of working children, families of children in institutions, community leaders, and service providers
Moving Forward

Qualitative and quantitative data analysis

Validation and dissemination workshops with partners in 3 Provinces

Possibility of extending partnership to design and piloted a comprehensive family and community support model
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