

Country context Indonesia

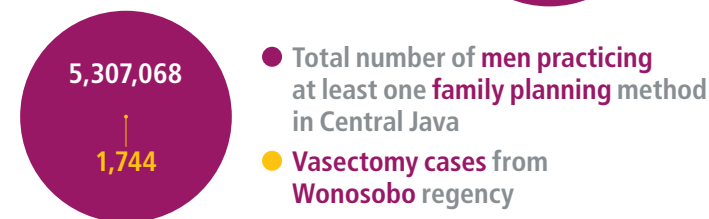
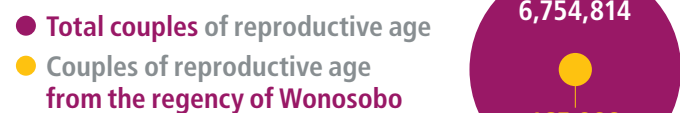


Right: 37-year old farmer Muhadin asks a question during a Q&A session at a Priyo Utomo meeting.
KEMAL JUFRI | PANOS

Like other Southeast Asian countries, Indonesia is no stranger to myths surrounding family planning and childbearing. The most common of these is the false belief that 'more children mean more wealth.'



In numbers



Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world with a total population estimated at 253.6 million as of July 2014. More than half of all Indonesians live on the island of Java making it the most populous island on the planet.

Despite a Contraceptive Prevalence Rate of over 60%, since the introduction of family planning in the early 70s, experts predict that the population will reach around 254 million by 2020 and 288 million by 2050. Creative strategies such as those practised by collectives like Nuansa Mandiri are proving inspiring and effective.

At the Family Planning Summit in 2012, the Indonesian Government made a commitment to expand family planning services and information across the country. In 2013 alone, an additional 8.4 million women and girls were using modern contraceptives and family planning which helped avert more than eight million unintended pregnancies and 16,000 maternal deaths. Currently, the government is implementing a universal health coverage system, launched in 2014, which is making family planning accessible to everyone at a very low cost. Despite this progress, more needs to be done to address public and reproductive health issues at the policy level. There needs to be a strong focus on improved public health services including ensuring access to medical and health facilities, availability of medical supplies and the quality of trained medical and health practitioners to provide proper medical attention to the country's population.

JOINING VOICES

Delivering family planning in Indonesia



The 'very good men' of Priyo Utomo

In the highlands of Central Java lies the rural regency of Wonosobo where the population mainly depends on agriculture. 37-year-old Muhadin is a respected Islamic cleric in the village of Bogor. When his wife was pregnant with their fifth child, Muhadin decided to go for a more permanent method of contraception.

He is now confident that deciding to undergo vasectomy will prevent another unplanned pregnancy, a very important choice that has meant peace of mind for both him and his wife.

'In the beginning, myths about men losing their sexual virility and becoming physically weak after undergoing vasectomy was one of the major concerns in our society,' says Sudiyono, a villager from Bogor, who has had a vasectomy. 'That was proven to be untrue. On the contrary, now that we are not worried about unwanted pregnancies, our sex life is much better,' he adds.

The most significant reason for family planning in this village is the economic consideration. 'We are mostly small farmers in this area. Having two children is enough because more children mean more expenses. Otherwise, we won't be able to support them and give them a better future,' says 33-year-old Tuyono, a father of two. The average number of children per family in the village of Bogor is 2.5.

When the members of Bogor village were asked individually what influenced their decision to adopt a permanent contraceptive method, the most common response was the health and welfare of their wives, who were mostly on hormone-based contraceptives.

Indonesia Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA)

Years ago, the Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA) created a *Priyo Utomo* ('very good men') programme which has 16 chapters in Wonosobo. Over the years, it gained a reputation as the most successful and effective supplier of family planning methods and became part of the government's nationwide planned parenthood programme. The Bogor chapter of *Priyo Utomo* meets regularly to provide moral support and to educate and train members to become effective motivators to potential contraceptive users. Due to the active campaigning and advocacy for the government's family planning programmes, the Mayor of Wonosobo was publicly recognized by the country's president in 2013.

The success of the movement is largely attributed to personal testimonies. According to community outreach officers in the area, respected members of society such as religious leaders, government officials or prominent figures who take on the role as 'motivators', influence the decision of other men in the community. 'The information is passed on mostly through word-of-mouth,' says Djunaedi, the head of Wonosobo BKKPN (Population and Family Planning Agency).



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Sudiyono



Cover: The Priyo Utomo group of Bogor Village in Wonosobo, Central Java, Indonesia gather for their regular meeting. It is a support group for vasectomy acceptors initially organized by IPPA, which eventually became part of the government's successful family planning programme.

Above: 54-year-old farmer, Prasetyo carries grass to feed his goats at Bogor Village in Wonosobo. He already has 3 children with his wife and had a vasectomy in 1999 as both he and his wife planned to have only three children for economic reasons.

Left: 45-year-old farmer, Sudiyono at Bogor Village in Wonosobo. He decided to undergo vasectomy for economic reasons, and for the health and well-being of his wife after she had two children via caesarean birth.

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Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA), which was established in 1957, is currently leading the NGO family planning movement in Indonesia. The organization believes that the right to family is central to the wellbeing of society.

IPPA is committed to the fulfilment of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Indonesia. The association has been critical in the family planning movement which has helped people to have the number of children they want, leading to an average of 2.5 children per couple. Over the course of 57 years, IPPA has reached out to 28 provinces, covering 231 regencies/municipalities in Indonesia.

Priyo Utomo is a voluntary, rights-based group consisting of men who made a choice to accept a permanent contraceptive method. This project was first initiated by IPPA's Central Java Chapter and has been adopted by the government's National Family Planning Coordination Board. Priyo Utomo acts as a peer group to enhance male participation in family planning. This group has various activities such as encouraging local leaders to have a vasectomy, giving consultations and testimonies, and also supporting the groups' businesses.



Top: Community outreach officer, Sulistyowati, encourages members of the Priyo Utomo group to be motivators.

Above: Local midwife, Endang Dwi Ningsih, talks about vasectomy.

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